



Calcitonin 200 units/mL X 2 mL Injectable

The issue: calcitonin 200 units/mL X 2 mL injectable is on backorder from the only manufacturer in Canada. Some NH supply will also be expiring on October 31, 2022, resulting in stock levels of approximately 3 to 4 weeks remaining. Without conservation measures, there is potential for a supply gap of a few weeks leading up to the estimated resupply date.

Clinical Use: mainly for severe and/or symptomatic hypercalcemia

Estimated Resolution: December 2022

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and potential formulary alternatives.
- Clinicians should reserve remaining calcitonin supply for use in acute severe (Ca^{2+} 3.5 mmol/L or greater) or symptomatic hypercalcemia (e.g. lethargy, confusion, coma).
 - Ensure patient is calcitonin responsive before continuing therapy.
 - Mild to moderate asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic hypercalcemia may not require immediate treatment. Refer to clinical references for further guidance.

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:

Hypercalcemia: There is currently no alternative to calcitonin injectable. **Please reserve stock for the treatment of acute severe or symptomatic hypercalcemia.**

Acute hypercalcemia treatment algorithm (severe):

- isotonic saline ("saline hydration")
- calcitonin injectable (**current shortage**)
- pamidronate or zoledronic acid injection (longer onset of action)
- +/- hemodialysis in select population

Analgesia for acute vertebral fractures (off-label): please contact Med Use Management Pharmacist to discuss

Post-menopausal osteoporosis: oral bisphosphonates

Paget disease (symptomatic): oral and injectable bisphosphonates, denosumab (non-formulary)

October 28, 2022 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: Medication Use Management Pharmacists mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Drug Discontinuation		
	Medication Change		
	Best Practice		

*Alternatives are provided for clinician information and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinical judgment.