





Heparin 5000 units/0.5 mL Vials

The Issue: Fresenius Kabi has changed the appearance of vial labelling and colour of vial caps for their heparin 5000 units/0.5 mL vials in order to improve safety by differentiating from other look-alike products. NH pharmacy has approximately 2 weeks supply left of the current vials (red cap) and will be switching over to the new vials (green cap) shortly.

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this permanent product appearance change.
- Staff may see both product variations in circulation as the transition is made in the coming weeks.
- The vials are the same in terms of label information, product concentration, vial size and storage.
- **KEY PRODUCT DIFFERENCES:**
 - Labelling on the new vials is in the upright orientation.
 - The new vials have green caps instead of the (current) red caps.
- **MED SAFETY REMINDER:** Staff should always read the product label to confirm the correct medication has been selected (do not rely on the colour of the cap to confirm).

Product Comparison:

Current Product Appearance heparin 5000 units/0.5 mL vial (red top)	New Product Appearance heparin 5000 units/0.5 mL vial (green top)
	

February 11, 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		
	Product Appearance Change	✓	
	Best Practice		