



Heparin 10,000 units/mL X 0.5 mL Vials

The Issue: Heparin 10,000 units/mL X 0.5 mL vials are currently not available to order and ETA for resupply is scheduled for April 2022; however, this date may change. NH has approximately 4-6 weeks of supply left in pharmacies and wardstock locations.

Estimated Availability: April 2022

Clinical Use: this format and dose of unfractionated heparin is typically used for venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and formulary alternatives.
- Heparin 10,000 units/mL X 0.5 mL vials should be reserved for patients who cannot receive alternate anticoagulants for VTE prophylaxis (e.g. due to significant renal impairment, dialysis) in order to conserve remaining supply.
- See NH regional VTE Risk Assessment and Prophylaxis in Acute Care Patients order set 10-111-5162 on [OurNH](#).

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:

- low molecular weight heparins:
 - enoxaparin injection (see additional [product information](#) on OurNH)
 - dalteparin injection (see [formulary restriction](#) on OurNH)
- oral anticoagulants

March 10, 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.