Drug Shortage

hydrocortisone sodium succinate and methylPREDNISolone sodium succinate vials for IV use

The Issue: All strengths of both hydrocortisone and methylprednisolone sodium succinate vials are on shortage with varying resupply dates between the end of April and June 2022. NH has approximately 6 to 8 weeks of stock in pharmacies and wardstock areas of both of these drugs depending on the strength.

Practice Implications:
- Clinicians should be aware of these drug shortages and formulary alternatives.
- Clinicians should reserve intravenous (IV) administration for use when absolutely necessary (i.e. acute exacerbations of disease) and follow conservation measures:
  - use oral alternatives whenever clinically appropriate
  - use the lowest IV dose and duration when required
  - change IV to oral therapy as soon as clinically appropriate

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:
- oral hydrocortisone tablets
- oral predniSONE tablets
- oral prednisoLONE liquid
- oral and IV dexamethasone

Note: methylPREDNISolone *acetate depot* is **NOT** interchangeable with methylPREDNISolone *sodium succinate* for intravenous use

Comparison of Systemic Glucocorticoid Preparations:

Drug	Equivalent Doses (mg)**	Anti-inflammatory activity relative to hydrocortisone	Duration of action (hours)
hydrocortisone	20	1	8 to 12
predniSONE	5	4	12 to 36
prednisoLONE	5	4	12 to 36
methylPREDNISolone	4	5	12 to 36
dexamethasone	0.75	30	36 to 72

**equivalent anti-inflammatory dose shown is for oral or IV administration

April 8, 2022 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortages	✓	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.