



methylPREDNISolone acetate 40 mg/mL depot vials

The Issue: methylPREDNISolone acetate 40 mg/mL long-acting (Depo-Medrol) vials (typically used for intra-articular injections) are currently on backorder from the sole source vendor in Canada. NH has approximately 2 to 3 weeks of stock in pharmacies and wardstock areas, with some sites already seeing very low supply on hand.

Estimated Availability: June 2022

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and formulary alternatives.
- triamcinolone acetonide depot injection remains available as an alternate option but may also be in short supply in the coming weeks

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:

- triamcinolone acetonide depot injection

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

Comparison of Intra-Articular (Depot) Glucocorticoid Preparations:

Drug	Equivalent Doses (mg)**	Average Duration of Action (days)
methylPREDNISolone acetate	10 to 80	7 to 84
triamcinolone acetonide	8 to 40	14

**Lack of consensus on optimal dosing for joint injections; equivalent dosing varies depending upon size of joint/body region, severity of inflammation, and amount of articular fluid present.
Reference: UpToDate, Typical doses of long-acting (depot) intraarticular glucocorticoids for adults, 2022.

April 8, 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.