



Pediatric Antibiotic Suspensions

The Issue: Several pediatric oral antibiotic suspensions are on shortage in Canada and NH sites may stock out of some products before anticipated resupply dates.

Stock Status:

Drug (suspension)	NH Stock Status	Estimated Resupply Date
amoxicillin	4 to 5 weeks on hand	January 2023
cefuroxime	4 to 5 weeks on hand	March 2023
azithromycin	3 to 4 weeks on hand	January 2023

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of these drug shortages and potential formulary alternatives.
- **Reminder:** before selecting an alternate option, consider the likelihood of viral infection.
 - **Viral infections are currently on the rise and do not warrant antibiotic therapy.**
- Information on appropriate alternative treatment options for specific indications are available from BC Children’s Hospital ([Firstline app](#)) and also from [Bugs&Drugs](#) online.
 - Due to increased demand, alternatives may also be in short supply in the coming months.
 - Pharmacists will discuss available alternatives with clinicians at their sites as required.

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:

- Amoxicillin capsules (250 mg or 500 mg) may be opened and added to a cold drink or small amount of soft food *if appropriate weight-based dosing can be obtained.*

Indication	Therapeutic Alternative(s)
acute otitis media, bacterial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ amoxicillin-clavulanate or ➤ clarithromycin
community-acquired pneumonia (greater than 3 months old – mild to moderate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ amoxicillin-clavulanate
pharyngitis/tonsillitis, streptococcal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ penicillin V (no oral suspension available; crushed tablets only) or ➤ clindamycin

<p>November 25, 2022 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST</p>	Drug Shortage	✓	<p>For further information contact: Medication Use Management Pharmacists: mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</p>
	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.