



Propranolol Extended-Release (Inderal-LA®) Capsules

The issue: Pfizer has issued a voluntary recall of several lots of propranolol extended-release capsules (Inderal-LA®; 60 mg, 80 mg, 120 mg, and 160 mg strengths) due to the presence of impurity *N*-nitroso-propranolol above the acceptable concentration limit. Nitrosamines are chemicals common in water and foods, including cured and grilled meats, dairy products and vegetables. Nitrosamine impurities may increase risk of cancer if people are exposed to them above acceptable levels and over long periods of time. The majority of NH supply has been affected and new product is not available at this time.

Estimated Availability: unknown at this time

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug recall and shortage.
- Based on available data, the lifetime theoretical cancer risk associated with nitrosamine exposure from these products is considered to be low.
- Propranolol immediate-release oral tablets remain available.
 - In most clinical settings, conversion from the **extended-release capsules** to the **immediate-release tablets** can generally be carried out as 1:1 for total daily dose; however, the immediate-release tablets require the total daily dose to be divided in two to four doses daily.
 - Clinicians should monitor patients who are switched from extended-release capsules to immediate-release tablets for any changes in effect (relevant to indication) as well as side effects, and adjust the dose as needed.

Potential Alternatives*:

- propranolol immediate-release oral tablets (10 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg)

February 28, 2022 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Recall & 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.