



Betamethasone 6 mg/mL Injection

The Issue: The single source vendor of betamethasone 6 mg/mL injection (1 mL and 5 mL vials) is on backorder. NH has approximately 6-7 weeks of stock in pharmacies and clinical areas, and the alternate option will need to be used when supply is depleted.

Anticipated Availability: Summer/Fall 2023

Clinical Use: corticosteroid for antenatal use in preterm labour

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and the potential alternative.
- When supply of betamethasone is depleted, the alternate is **dexamethasone 6 mg IM every 12 hours** for four doses. See order sets [10-111-5388](#), [10-111-5167](#), and [10-111-5233](#) for more information.
 - Oral use of dexamethasone is **NOT** an appropriate alternative.
- *If patient transfer occurs during the course of antenatal corticosteroids, the recommendations are:*
 - If started on a course of dexamethasone and transferred to a facility that still has betamethasone, the course of dexamethasone should be completed.
 - If started on a course of betamethasone and transferred to a facility with betamethasone, the betamethasone course should be completed.
 - If received a dose of betamethasone and transferred to a facility without betamethasone available, the woman should receive dexamethasone 6 mg IM every 12 hours starting 24 hours after the dose of betamethasone for two further doses.

Potential Alternative*:

- dexamethasone injection

June 1, 2023 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.