



Calcitonin 200 units/mL X 2 mL Injectable

The issue: calcitonin 200 units/mL X 2 mL injectable remains on backorder from the only manufacturer in Canada, with an estimated resupply date pushed out to August 2023. This is a low use item in NH, but there will likely be a supply gap of several months leading up to the resupply date as stock is already very low. Health Canada is looking at options to import product to cover this shortage, but nothing has been secured at this time.

Clinical Use: mainly for severe and/or symptomatic hypercalcemia

Estimated Resolution: August 2023

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and potential formulary alternatives.
- Clinicians should reserve remaining calcitonin supply for use in acute severe (Ca^{2+} 3.5 mmol/L or greater) or symptomatic hypercalcemia (e.g. lethargy, confusion, coma).
 - Ensure patient is calcitonin responsive before continuing therapy.
 - Mild to moderate asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic hypercalcemia may not require immediate treatment. Refer to clinical references for further guidance.

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:

Hypercalcemia: There is currently no alternative to calcitonin injectable. **Please reserve stock for the treatment of acute severe or symptomatic hypercalcemia.**

Acute hypercalcemia treatment algorithm (severe):

- I. isotonic saline (“saline hydration”)
- II. calcitonin injectable (**current shortage**)
- III. pamidronate or zoledronic acid injection (longer onset of action)
- IV. +/- hemodialysis in select population

Analgesia for acute vertebral fractures (off-label): please contact Med Use Management Pharmacist to discuss

Post-menopausal osteoporosis: oral bisphosphonates

Paget disease (symptomatic): oral and injectable bisphosphonates, denosumab (non-formulary)

March 3, 2023 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage Update	✓	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.