



# Ketamine Vials

**The Issue:** due to current shortages of ketamine 2 mL vials (both 10 mg/mL and 50 mg/mL) and uncertainty around future supply of larger vials (10 mg/mL X 20 mL and 50 mg/mL X 10 mL), conservation measures should be implemented to prevent future stock outs. NH has approximately 3 weeks of ketamine 10 mg/mL X 2 mL vials and 4-5 weeks of ketamine 50 mg/mL X 2 mL vials in pharmacy and wardstock areas.

**Estimated Availability:** unknown at this time for 2 mL vials

**Practice Implications:**

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage, conservation measures, and potential formulary alternatives for certain indications.
- Efforts should be made to reduce waste by using all doses in multi-dose vials while also adhering to strict aseptic technique:
  - **Sandoz brand vials** (majority of NH supply; **all Sandoz vials are multi-dose**):
    - store in original container between 15°C to 30°C and protect from light
    - multi-dose vials can be used for up to 28 days after first puncture
    - vials must be labelled with date of first puncture and discarded at 28 days
  - **ERFA brand vials** (unlikely to be stocked in NH):
    - discard any unused product at the end of each operating session

**Potential Formulary Alternatives\*:**

- *Alternative ketamine formats (current supply is good, but may be limited in the future):*
  - 10 mg/mL X 20 mL multi-dose vials
  - 50 mg/mL X 10 mL multi-dose vials
- *Sedation:*
  - midazolam
  - propofol
  - dexmedetomidine
- *Analgesia:*
  - morphine
  - hydromorphone
  - fentanyl

**Note:** [ketamine is a high risk/high alert medication requiring an independent double check](#)

<b>February 24, 2023</b> For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. <b>PLEASE POST</b>	<b>Drug Shortage</b>	✓	<b>For further information contact:</b>  Medication Use Management Pharmacists  <a href="mailto:mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca" style="color: white;">mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</a>
	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.