



Verapamil 180 mg SR and 240 mg SR Tablets

The Issue: verapamil 180 mg sustained release (SR) and 240 mg SR tablets are on backorder in Canada. NH stock levels are low and unlikely to meet current demands. Inventory may be depleted prior to resolution of this shortage.

Anticipated Availability: unknown at this time

Clinical Use: SR formulation calcium channel blocker for treatment of angina, hypertension, arrhythmias, as well as migraine prevention

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and alternative options.
- Available verapamil tablets include:
 - 120 mg SR tablets
 - 80 mg and 120 mg immediate release (IR) tablets

Potential Formulary Alternatives*:

- For verapamil SR tablets: (IR) tablets dosed at three times daily frequency to provide the same total daily dose
 - (e.g. 240 mg SR daily = 80 mg IR three times daily)
- May be able to use available 120 mg SR tablets
 - (e.g. 2 x 120 mg SR tablets = 240 mg SR tablet)
- **Note: unable to crush, chew or split 120 mg SR tablets**
 - (e.g. **cannot** use 1.5 x 120 mg SR tablets to make 180 mg SR)
- Use of alternative calcium channel blockers should be discussed with the treatment team prior to substituting to ensure appropriateness for indication.

June 7, 2023 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage(s)	✓	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.