



## bupivacaine 0.5% with EPINEPHrine (1:200,000) X 20 mL vials

**The Issue:** Due to the ongoing shortage of bupivacaine 0.5% with EPINEPHrine (1:200,000) vials in Canada, Health Canada has approved the importation of an equivalent Danish-authorized product from Aspen Pharmacare Inc. NH pharmacy has brought in a supply of this product to prevent local stock outs.

### Practice Implications:

- Staff may see both the Canadian and Danish labelled vials in circulation in the coming weeks.
- **The Danish product has the same active ingredients, concentrations, volume and storage requirements as the Canadian product; however, the following label differences should be noted:**



#### Product Naming:

- The Danish product uses the term “adrenaline tartrate”, whereas “EPINEPHrine bitartrate” is used on the Canadian product labelling.
- **EPINEPHrine bitartrate and adrenaline tartrate are identical substances**

#### Expression of Strength:

- Despite having the same concentrations, there is no percentage expression of strength (i.e. 0.5%) or total quantity per total volume (i.e. 100 mg/20 mL) on the Danish product.
- On the Danish product, adrenaline (EPINEPHrine) is listed in mikrog/mL rather than mcg/mL and the ratio (1:200,000) is absent. The overall concentration remains the same between products: **5 mcg/mL**.

**Product Comparison** (see [Health Canada risk communication](#) online for more info):

Canadian-labelled vials 20 mL (single use) 0.5% bupivacaine hydrochloride 100 mg/20 mL (5 mg/mL) EPINEPHrine bitartrate 1:200,000, 100 mcg/20 mL (5 mcg/mL)	Danish-labelled vials 20 mL (single use) bupivacaine hydrochloride 5 mg/mL adrenaline tartrate 5 mikrog/mL (5 mcg/mL)
	

<p><b>August 21, 2024</b> For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. <b>PLEASE POST</b></p>	<p><b>Drug Shortage</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	<p><b>For further information contact:</b> Medication Use Management Pharmacists mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</p>
	<p>Drug Discontinuation</p>	<p></p>	
	<p><b>Temporary Product Change</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	
	<p>Best Practice</p>	<p></p>	