



**bupivacaine HCl 0.25% and 0.5% with EPINEPHrine 1:200,000
X 20 mL vials**

The Issue: availability of bupivacaine HCl 0.25% and 0.5% with EPINEPHrine 1:200,000 X 20 mL vials remains limited and NH supply may not be sufficient each month to maintain usual needs.

Anticipated Resolution: December 2024

Clinical Use: anesthetic for local or regional anesthesia or analgesia

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and potential alternatives.
- **As recommended during previous drug shortages of these products in consultation with the Department of Anesthesia:**
 - Compounding of bupivacaine with EPINEPHrine from its component parts should be limited to anesthesia ONLY. This is a high-risk activity with high margin for error only to be used during the drug shortage.

Potential Alternatives*:

- bupivacaine 0.25% and 0.5% injection (plain)
- lidocaine 1% and 2% with EPINEPHrine injection
- ropivacaine injection

Note: bupivacaine and EPINEPHrine are [high risk/alert medications](#) requiring an independent double check

November 8, 2024 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.