

## BC Health Authorities Provincial Drug Shortage Memo

**Date:** October 2, 2024

**PLEASE POST**

### **Drug:**

Dihydroergotamine 1 mg/mL injectable

### **Classification:**

Vasoconstrictor, vascular headache therapy

### **Indication:**

Acute migraine

### **Duration:**

Dihydroergotamine injectable is on backorder from Sterimax until mid February 2025. All supplies of dihydroergotamine injectable will expire at the end of October 2024.

Use of dihydroergotamine in NH is very low, but alternatives will need to be used after October 31, 2024.

### **Practice Implications:**

Please reserve dihydroergotamine for refractory migraine cases that have not responded to conventional therapy. The use of alternatives should be considered where possible to preserve existing supplies. Please ensure that product is not expired prior to use.

### **Suggested Alternatives\*:**

- acetaminophen
- NSAIDs
- sumatriptan SC
- metoclopramide IV

\*Alternative(s) are provided for clinician information and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinician judgment.

### **Contact Information:**

Please contact the NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists if there are any questions:  
mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca