

Date:	June 18, 2020
To:	NH Physicians, Nurses, and Pharmacists
From:	NH Pharmacy Services
Re:	Update on Supply of Critical Care Drugs

This memo is a follow up to a previous memo sent by NH Pharmacy Services on April 13, 2020 re: "Medication Conservation Strategies for Critical Care Drugs".

In response to considerable increases in demand for particular critical care medications across Canada, NH Pharmacy Services had previously advised that conservation strategies be strongly considered for propofol, midazolam, ketamine, fentanyl, cisatracurium, and salbutamol and ipratropium inhalers. Due to our ability to access adequate ongoing supply of these drugs to meet our current clinical needs, we are confident that **conservation measures can be lifted at this time.**

With regard to propofol specifically:

- NH operating rooms should continue to utilize propofol 1% X 20 mL vials wherever possible in order to continue reserving the larger vials for use in ICU.
- Local pharmacy departments may intermittently move stock of larger vials with short expiry dating into operating rooms to be used before expiring.

NH Pharmacy Services continues to closely monitor current supplies and is well connected with collaborative efforts at the provincial and national level to ensure adequate supply is available for our patients.

Thank you for understanding the fluid nature of this situation and for your collaboration in helping us to conserve our supply of critical care drugs over the past several weeks. NH Pharmacy Services will continue to provide updates as required.

Please direct any questions to:

Regional Medication Use Management Pharmacist

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