

# Drug Supply Alert

Ministry of Health and Long – Term Care | Drugs and Devices Division | Drug Programs Delivery Branch

## Status

- The ministry has received the attached communication on the supply status of OncoTICE<sup>®</sup>, (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), Strain TICE<sup>®</sup>) from the Provincial / Territorial Drug Shortages Task Team.
- Recently Merck Canada Inc. has been experiencing an unexpected manufacturing delay. The issue is expected to temporarily impact medication availability in Canada beginning late June till end of July 2019. During this time the medication will be temporarily unavailable in Canada.

## Approach

- Please ensure that you read and circulate the attached information to address the potential impacts to your facility and to avoid and / or minimize patient impacts that may result from this supply interruption.
- Please disseminate the attachment (s) to health system partners.

## Resources

- **Drug Shortages Canada Website:** As of March 14, 2017, regulations require drug manufacturers to publicly report drug shortages and product discontinuations. Specifically, manufacturers must report an anticipated drug shortage, a discontinuation of a drug six months in advance, and any previously unreported shortage within five days of learning about it. This information will be reported on the Drug Shortages Canada website at: <https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca>.
- **Ontario's Drug Stock Monitoring:** <https://extra.sse.gov.on.ca/sites/mohltc-odsm/SitePages/MOH.aspx>
- **Ethical Framework for Resource Allocation During the Drug Supply Shortage:** [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/supply/docs/ethical\\_framework.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/supply/docs/ethical_framework.pdf)

- **Drug Shortages, A Guide for Assessment and Patient Management. Canadian Pharmacists Association:**  
<http://www.pharmacists.ca/cpha-ca/assets/File/cpha-on-the-issues/DrugShortagesGuide.pdf>
- **Drug Shortages and Medication Safety Concerns, The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada Safety Bulletin:** [https://www.ismp-canada.org/download/safetyBulletins/2012/ISMPCSB2012-03\\_Drug\\_Shortages.pdf](https://www.ismp-canada.org/download/safetyBulletins/2012/ISMPCSB2012-03_Drug_Shortages.pdf)
- **Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Drug Shortages Toolkit:**  
[https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca/files/MSSC\\_Toolkit\\_2017.pdf](https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca/files/MSSC_Toolkit_2017.pdf)
- **Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Drug Shortages Protocol:**  
[https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca/files/MSSC\\_Protocol\\_2017.pdf](https://www.drugshortagescanada.ca/files/MSSC_Protocol_2017.pdf)
- **World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines:**  
[http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/essentialmedicines/20th\\_EML2017.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/essentialmedicines/20th_EML2017.pdf?ua=1)

If you would like to add additional colleagues to the ministry's drug shortages distribution list or wish to be removed from it, please contact [drugprogramsdelivery@ontario.ca](mailto:drugprogramsdelivery@ontario.ca).