

Drug Shortage / Supply Alert

Ministry of Health | Drugs and Devices Division | Drug Programs Delivery Branch

Status

- The ministry has received the attached communication (s) on the shortage of Daunorubicin from Cancer Care Ontario.
- For the duration of this supply interruption, hospitals/cancer centres are advised to consider implementing conservation strategies (if not already done so) suggested by provincial cancer experts, including the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO).

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.
- Please notify health care practitioners and prescribers of the supply interruption and share a copy of this communication when appropriate.
- Sites are encouraged to share locally with hospitals in their Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) or a neighbouring LHIN to address any acute supply issues while also not stockpiling product unnecessarily. Contact your LHIN drug lead who can facilitate this process.
- To help with supply conservation and to minimize wastage, sites are encouraged to share available product within their region based on anticipated patient volumes.
- Please be judicious in ordering product and prioritize treatment and conserve product accordingly when appropriate and clinical guidance is provided.

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
- **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
- **Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Drug Shortages Toolkit:** 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
- **World Health Organization Model List of Essential Medicines:** 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.