



Tamoxifen Shortage: Important Information for Patients

October 28, 2019

There are three companies that sell tamoxifen in Canada. All three are reporting shortages at this time. A shortage means that manufacturers may not have enough medication to supply patients for a period of time.

The shortage is expected to be over in December 2019 or January 2020.

What to expect during the tamoxifen shortage:

- You may get less tamoxifen than usual when you fill your prescription.
- Hospitals and pharmacies will work together to share the tamoxifen that is available.
- If the supply of tamoxifen becomes significantly limited, your oncologist (cancer doctor) may recommend other treatment options.

What to do during the tamoxifen shortage:

Fill your prescription earlier than usual.

- Take your prescription to the pharmacy about seven days before you expect to run out of medicine.
- The extra time will give your pharmacist enough time to try to find enough tamoxifen if the drug is in short supply, such as checking other local pharmacies to see if they have any to share.

If your pharmacy cannot find enough tamoxifen to fill your prescription, you should contact your prescriber (e.g., family doctor, oncologist, nurse practitioner) right away.

- You may need to talk about other treatment options while tamoxifen is in short supply.
- Do not make any changes to your treatment plan, such as reducing your dose, splitting your tablets or taking them less frequently, without talking to your prescriber.
- Changes to your treatment plan should be made by your oncologist. As such, your family doctor or nurse practitioner may refer you to your oncologist.

For more information:

- Contact your pharmacy if you have questions about the availability of tamoxifen.
- Contact your prescriber for information about your personal treatment plan.
- Visit drugshortagescanada.ca for the most up-to-date details on all drug shortages in Canada.