

**SHORTAGE OF PARENTERAL METHOTREXATE (with preservative):
June 16 2017**

We wish to inform members that there is a country-wide shortage of parenteral Methotrexate 25mg/ml, 2cc vial with preservative, by all manufacturers, including Sandoz, Pfizer/Mayne (previously Hospira), and Teva.

The Health Canada Drug Shortages web-site reports that the manufacturer indicates that product shortage will/may be resolved variously by 30 June 2017 and 17 July 2017, though attempts to confirm these dates with the manufacturer have been unsuccessful. Actual regional shortage will depend on stock available on Pharmacy shelf and regional warehouse stockpiles, if any. The certainty is that there has not been replenishment of supplies for the past month.

We are informed this shortage does not include the Pfizer 25mg/ml, 2cc vial, without preservative, nor their pre-filled syringes (note, you must specify the appropriate dose syringe AND needles - we recommend 30gauge-3/8"). Teva 25mg/ml, 2cc vial without preservative may also be available. As well, MetoJect Pre-filled Syringe has recently had approval by Health Canada; this product has been sourced from Germany (both API=Active Principle Ingredient and formulation), with coverage by some Private Insurers; however, negotiations continue with pCPA (Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance) and thus there is no Provincial Formulary coverage, nor NIHB.

Thus, options for those currently stable on MTXsc include:

1. switch to Pfizer brand 25mg/ml, 2cc vial w/o preservative - for Ontario members, we have been in contact with ODB to ensure coverage during this shortage and are reasonably confident of same.
2. switch to Teva brand, again w/o preservative - this product will NOT be covered by Ontario Drug Benefit, but may be covered in other provinces
3. switch to pre-filled syringe,
4. or to MTXpo, depending on past exposure and experience.

Please let us know of any difficulties that you may become aware of.

We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Sincerely,
ORA Executive