

MEDICATION SHORTAGE BULLETIN



December 2023

Local Anesthetic Shortage

There are shortages affecting lidocaine and bupivacaine solutions that contain epinephrine. Of note, the plain formats (without epinephrine) are readily available.

For lidocaine with epinephrine, there are three Canadian suppliers. Only two of the three are currently experiencing supply chain issues:

- Hikma, who supplies most of the lidocaine with epinephrine in Canada, has a healthy supply.
- Aspen is experiencing shipping delays related to a manufacturing disruption. The disruption has been resolved, and product shipments are expected by late 2023/early 2024.
- Pfizer is experiencing manufacturing disruptions related to a facility impacted by a tornado and will be unable to resupply until July 2024

For bupivacaine with epinephrine, there are two Canadian suppliers. Both are experiencing supply chain issues:

- Aspen was experiencing shipping delays related to a manufacturing disruption. The disruption has been resolved. One of three formats is currently available. Product shipments are expected to stabilize with the other two formats by late 2023/early 2024.
- As mentioned above, Pfizer is experiencing manufacturing disruptions related to a facility impacted by a tornado. Resupplies are expected for their two formats in January and March of 2024.

The Drug Shortages Unit at Health Canada is monitoring supply and communicating with impacted stakeholders. Health Canada will pursue additional mitigation measures, such as international sources of supply, should they become necessary and available. CAS encourages its members to share this info with their colleagues and conserve supply of epinephrine-containing local anesthesia solutions. If members are currently experiencing a lack of supply that is impacting patient care, CAS urges anesthesia dept leaders to reach out to their hospital purchasing depts and request that they seek out alternate suppliers until regular supply has been restored.