

MEDICATION SHORTAGE BULLETIN



December 2023

Endotracheal Tube Shortage

CAS has become aware that some hospitals are experiencing a shortage of endotracheal tubes. Health Canada's Equipment Shortages Unit has shared with CAS that this is a result of a combination of factors (including a product recall and global raw materials shortage). Health Canada has activated their Exceptional Importation pathway to obtain supply from international sources until the Canadian supply chain has been re-established. This is expected to happen by the late 2023/early 2024. Health Canada is following the situation closely and holds regular meetings with the manufacturers and provincial/territorial representatives to share ongoing information on the shortage and availability of alternate supplies.

CAS members are encouraged to share this information with their colleagues. We encourage individuals and departments to adopt conservation strategies that will help to minimize the clinical impact of this shortage. As well, if any centre is currently experiencing a complete lack of specific ETT's, anesthesia department leads should notify their purchasing department that alternative supplies (i.e. other brands) are available. Given the critical nature of this product, purchasers should be advised to seek out alternatives and NOT hold out until their regular product supply is replenished. More information on product availability can be found by contacting Provincial/Territorial representatives, referring to the list of approved exceptional importation products or by contacting Health Canada at mdsmsecsecretariat-secretariat.du.cmpim@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Should you encounter any adverse events related to the endotracheal tube shortage, we encourage you to report these within your hospital reporting systems as well as to the CAS (anesthesia@cas.ca). We will remain in contact with Health Canada to closely monitor the situation.