



Medication Posting

Important news and alerts about pharmacy products



Medication Posting

23 November 2016

- Best Practice
- Drug Discontinuation
- Drug Shortage
- Label/Packaging Change
- Medication Change
- Medication Safety
- Recall
- Vendor Change

For distribution by:

Pharmacy Managers/Directors

For the information of:

Pharmacy Staff
Patient Care Managers
Clinical Nurse Educators
Physicians

PLEASE POST

Activated charcoal suspension 25 g & 50 g (with and without sorbitol) shortage

The Issue:

There is a back order of all formats of activated charcoal suspension (with and without sorbitol). The estimated release date for the Omega products is March 2017 and the Pharmascience products is yet to be determined.

Stock levels are low and will not meet current demands. Inventory will likely be depleted prior to the resolution of this back order.

Key changes include:

- Physicians should be aware of the shortage of activated charcoal suspension.
- Contact the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) at 1-800-332-1414 for advice about activated charcoal administration and potential therapeutic alternatives as clinically appropriate.
 - PADIS Guidelines for Administration of Activated Charcoal are available on Insite at the following link:

<http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/padis/tms-padis-activated-charcoal-guidelines.pdf>
- Activated charcoal, USP powder is available and must be diluted just prior to administration with 8 mL of water per 1 g of charcoal (e.g., add 200 mL of water to 25 g of activated charcoal powder to make a 125 mg/ mL suspension).

Note: PADIS is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-332-1414. Information Specialists (nurses or pharmacists with extensive experience in toxicology) and Medical Toxicologists (physicians with subspecialty training in Medical Toxicology) are available to assist with the management of poisoned patients.

Action:

Please post this notice in your area and ensure all staff is informed about the change.

Contact:

Please contact your site pharmacy department with any questions or concerns.

Prepared by: Mandy De Jong, Provincial Drug Utilization Evaluation Pharmacist

The information contained in this document, and as amended from time to time, was created expressly for use by Alberta Health Services and persons acting on behalf of the Alberta Health Services for guiding actions and decisions taken on behalf of Alberta Health Services. Any adoption/use/modification of this document are done so at the risk of the adopting organization. Alberta Health Services accepts no responsibility for any modification and/or redistribution and is not liable in any way for any actions taken by individuals based on the information herein, or for any inaccuracies, errors, or omissions in the information in this document.