Fludarabine Injection

Teva, which usually supplies Fludarabine in Canadian wholesale markets, has the drug on suspended back-order due to unspecified manufacturing issues with no estimated release date.\(^1,2\)

Hospira discontinued Fludarabine in 2010.\(^5\)

Pharmaceutical Partners of Canada (PPC) still has some supply available to hospitals by ordering direct (1-877-821-7724)\(^3\).

No advice has been provided for managing patients impacted by the shortage. There are no direct substitutions for Fludarabine available.

Therefore, it would be prudent to follow basic drug shortage guidelines:

- Existing fludarabine stock only used to continue treatments that have already been initiated.
- No new patients should be initiated on fludarabine treatment, until further notice.

**Indications**\(^4\):

- Second-line treatment in patients with CLL who have failed other conventional therapies.
- Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma

**Treatment Alternatives**\(^1\):

- No single agent can be substituted for Daunorubicin
- An alternate agent based on a patient’s renal and liver function, and the neoplasm type and location must be chosen
- A hematology or oncology specialist consult may be appropriate

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**References:**


2. Personal communication, Teva Canada Medical Information, August 2012 – 1-800-268-41293.

3. Personal communication, Pharmaceutical Partners of Canada, August 2012 – 1-877-821-7724

5. Personal communication, Hospira Pharmaceuticals, August 2012