Spironolactone Shortage
Updated 01 Sep 2017

Suppliers of spironolactone tablets in Canada:\(^1\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>DIN</th>
<th>Mfr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spironolactone only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldactone</td>
<td>25 mg</td>
<td>00028606</td>
<td>PFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 mg</td>
<td>00285455</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teva-Spironolactone</td>
<td>25 mg</td>
<td>00613215</td>
<td>TEV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 mg</td>
<td>00613223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spironolactone/Hydrochlorothiazide Combination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldactazide 25</td>
<td>25 mg/25 mg</td>
<td>00180408</td>
<td>PFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldactazide 50</td>
<td>50 mg/50 mg</td>
<td>00594377</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teva-Spironolactone/HCTZ</td>
<td>25 mg/25 mg</td>
<td>00613231</td>
<td>TEV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 mg/50 mg*</td>
<td>00657182</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The only product with inventory at McKesson.

Options:
- Switch to combination product if suitable and available.
- If one tablet strength is available, use for all doses. For low doses that cannot feasibly be obtained by dividing 100 mg tablets, compound an oral suspension.
  
  [http://www.sickkids.ca/pdfs/Pharmacy/2695-Spironolactone.pdf](http://www.sickkids.ca/pdfs/Pharmacy/2695-Spironolactone.pdf)
- Bulk powder is currently not available through Medisca.
  - Compounding pharmacies may be able to (temporarily?) access bulk powder though have not necessarily ordered it in; check with your local compounding pharmacy.

Therapeutic Alternatives:\(^2\):

*Note:* spironolactone is an aldosterone antagonist; considering eplerenone (Inspra\(^8\)) has the same mechanism of action--though is more selective and therefore better tolerated-- eplerenone is a natural substitute for most indications of spironolactone. However, the acquisition cost of Inspra\(^8\) is nearly 20x that of spironolactone for therapeutically equivalent doses.\(^4\) Generic forms of eplerenone approved the end of August 2017\(^1\) are not currently available, but could potentially be at any time.

Approved Indications:
- **Primary hyperaldosteronism**
  - alternatives - eplerenone\(^5,7\); amiloride\(^5,6\)

- **Edematous states:**
  - congestive heart failure\(^8,9\)
    - alternative – eplerenone
- Cirrhosis of the liver accompanied by edema and/or ascites\textsuperscript{10}
  - spironolactone is useful because of high plasma aldosterone levels and is often used in combination with furosemide and possibly metolazone.
  - alternative – amiloride
- The nephrotic syndrome
  - complicated; call with specific information

- **Essential hypertension**
  - Even though indicated for essential hypertension,\textsuperscript{2,11} spironolactone is generally reserved for patients with resistant hypertension\textsuperscript{12,13} or concomitant heart failure\textsuperscript{7}; eplerenone may be an alternative in resistant hypertension.\textsuperscript{13}

- **Hypokalemia** when other measures are considered inappropriate or inadequate
  - alternative - amiloride, triamterene\textsuperscript{14}

**Off-label Use:**
- **Acne in adult women**\textsuperscript{15,16}
  - alternatives - combination hormonal contraceptives, especially containing cyproterone or drospirenone

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31 Mar 2011 | **Updated 01 Sep 2017**

**References:**

2. RxTx [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; 2017. CPS online: Aldactone; [updated 23 Jul 2015; cited 01 Sep 2017]. Available from: [https://www.e-therapeutics.ca/](https://www.e-therapeutics.ca/)


