

## 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.<sup>1,2</sup>

Hospira discontinued Fludarabine in 2010.<sup>5</sup>

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

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<sup>4</sup>

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

### Treatment Alternatives<sup>1</sup>:

- 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:

1. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Drug Shortages. Available at <http://www.ashp.org/drugshortages/current/bulletin.aspx?id=648>. August 2012.
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
4. e-CPS [Online]. *Fludara monograph*. Accessed August 23, 2012.

5. Personal communication, Hospira Pharmaceuticals, August 2012