

## Phenytoin

Dilantin® 100 mg and 30 mg extended release capsules have been shorted off and on in Saskatchewan. Apparently, some should arrive at Saskatchewan wholesalers the week of March 21, 2011. Pfizer has been trying to ship out about every two weeks with what is available.<sup>1</sup>

### Products on Saskatchewan Formulary:<sup>2</sup>

Product Name	Dosage Form	DIN	Manufacturer
Dilantin®	30 mg Capsule	00022772	Pfizer
Dilantin®	100 mg Capsule	00022780	Pfizer
Dilantin®	6 mg/ ml oral suspension	00023442	Pfizer
Taro-Phenytoin	25 mg/ml oral suspension	02250896	Taro
Dilantin®	25 mg/ml oral suspension	00023450	Pfizer
Dilantin® Infatab	50 mg chewable tablet	00023698	Pfizer

### Further products listed on Drug Product Database:<sup>3</sup>

Product Name	Dosage Form	DIN	Manufacturer
Phenytoin Sodium Inj USP	50 mg/ml injectable	00497304	Hospira
Phenytoin Sodium Inj USP	50 mg/ ml injectable	00780626	Sandoz

Patients will most likely need to be switched to the oral suspension or chewable.

### Important Notes:

- Dilantin® capsules are labelled as phenytoin sodium; Dilantin® Infatabs and oral suspensions are labelled as phenytoin free acid. **Therefore, each 100 mg Dilantin® capsule contains 92 mg phenytoin;**<sup>4</sup> each 50 mg Dilantin® Infatab contains 50 mg phenytoin; each 5 ml of oral suspension contains 30 mg or 125 mg phenytoin (including Taro-phenytoin 25 mg/ml suspension<sup>5</sup>).<sup>6</sup>
- While the capsules may be dosed anywhere from one to four times daily, the Infatabs and oral suspensions need to be dosed three times daily in adults and may be dosed two to three times daily in children. Once daily dosing is not appropriate for the Infatabs or suspension.<sup>6</sup>
- The Infatabs are formulated as a chewable tablet, though exert the same kinetics whether they are chewed or not.<sup>6</sup>
- It would be prudent to monitor serum levels, especially if a different dosage frequency is implemented. Pfizer suggests allowing seven to ten days after the switch before checking.<sup>6</sup> Some suggest using the daily dose to guide the wait time:<sup>7</sup>

Daily Dose (mg)	Time to Steady State (days)
300	5-7
400	7-10
500	21-28

## References:

1. Phone communication with Pfizer medical information, 1-800-463-6001 2011 March 16.
2. Saskatchewan Formulary, Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch [homepage on the Internet]. Government of Saskatchewan; [updated 2010 Jul 29; cited 2011 Mar 16]. Available from: <http://formulary.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca/>
3. Health Canada. Drug Product Database Online Query. Ottawa, ON: Health Canada; [updated 2010 Apr 1; cited 2011 Mar 16]. Available from: <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/dispatch-repartition.do?lang=eng>
4. e-CPS [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2011 [updated 2010 Jan 26; cited 2011 Mar 16]. Dilantin® Capsules [product monograph]. Available from: <http://www.e-cps.ca> . Also available in paper copy from the publisher.
5. e-CPS [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2010 [cited 2011 Mar 16]. Taro-phenytoin [product availability]. Available from: <http://www.e-cps.ca> . Also available in paper copy from the publisher.
6. e-CPS [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2010 [updated 2009 Oct 15; cited 2011 Mar 16]. Dilantin® Infatabs, -30 Suspension, -125 Suspension [product monograph]. Available from: <http://www.e-cps.ca> . Also available in paper copy from the publisher.
7. Bauer LE, Ed. Chapter 10. Phenytoin. Applied Clinical Pharmacokinetics. 2nd edition. New York, New York:McGraw-Hill 2008.