

Drug Shortages: Vigabatrin Sachets

Health Canada has approved the temporary importation of a limited supply of US-labelled vigabatrin sachets by Dr. Reddy's, to help alleviate the current shortage of this product. The US-labelled vigabatrin sachets can be used in a comparable way to the approved Canadian product (i.e., has the same active ingredient and concentration as the current products approved by Health Canada).

Effective November 1, 2023, the US-labelled vigabatrin sachets will be listed temporarily as a **non-interchangeable full Formulary benefit** with the currently listed product on the Saskatchewan Formulary. The Dr. Reddy's US-labelled vigabatrin sachets are expected to be available for order the week of October 30, 2023.

PseudoDIN	Strength	Product Name	Dosage Form
09858315	500mg	US-Labelled vigabatrin	Sachets

The US-labelled product differs from the Canadian marketed product in one aspect:

- **The US-labelled product should ONLY be reconstituted with cold or room temperature water prior to administration** whereas the Canadian marketed product monograph indicates it could also be reconstituted with fruit juice, milk, or infant formula. For the reconstitution instructions, healthcare professionals should refer to the United States Prescribing Information (USPI) available at:
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=f6be436e-46c7-e9ab-0fcf-e8d04dc12b72>

Information about the US-labelled vigabatrin sachets for healthcare professionals is available on the medSask website at <https://medsask.usask.ca/professional-practice/drug-shortages>.

What will individuals pay for the US-labelled vigabatrin sachets? Individuals will pay according to their usual coverage, deductible and/or copayment.

Can I dispense the US-labelled vigabatrin sachets instead of the existing products listed on the Formulary? *Pharmacies should continue to dispense the approved Health Canada products listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary if it is available.* However, if the Canadian product is not available, Health Canada has temporarily approved the US-labelled vigabatrin sachets for use in Canada.

- If the prescription authorizes the dispensing of a particular strength and dosage of vigabatrin without specifying a specific brand or product name, then a pharmacist may dispense the US-labelled vigabatrin sachets.
- Because this product is non-interchangeable, if a prescription directs the dispensing of specific brand of vigabatrin (i.e., Sabril®), a new prescription would be required to dispense US-labelled vigabatrin sachets.

Who to Call: If you have any questions or issues with submitting claims for adjudication, call:

- DPEBB at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581

Information is also available on the following websites:

The secure Drug Plan Web page for pharmacies and suppliers (site where paylists and bulletins are listed):
<https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>