

Drug Shortages: Nitroglycerin Spray

Health Canada has approved the temporary importation of a limited supply of UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray by Juno, to help alleviate the current shortage of this medication. The UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate sublingual spray 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 December 4, 2023, UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray will be listed temporarily as a **non-interchangeable full Formulary benefit** with the currently listed product on the Saskatchewan Formulary. The Juno UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray is expected to be available for order the week of December 4, 2023.

PseudoDIN	Strength	Product Name	Dosage Form
09858317	0.4mg	UK – Glyceryl Trinitrate (Nitroglycerin)	Sublingual Spray

The UK-authorized product differs from the Canadian marketed product in the following aspects:

- **Nomenclature used for the active ingredient:** “Glyceryl trinitrate” is used in the UK product labelling whereas “Nitroglycerin” is used in the labelling of the Canadian-marketed products.
- **Product composition:**
 - The Canadian-marketed products are aromatized oily solutions containing peppermint oil as a flavoring agent while the **UK-authorized product does not contain peppermint oil and thus does not have the same peppermint aroma.**
 - The **UK-authorized product contains propylene glycol as an excipient**, which is not present in the Canadian-marketed products. **Due to its propylene glycol content, the UK-authorized product can cause skin irritation.**
 - **Number of metered doses in each container:** The UK-authorized drug product contains 180 metered doses while the Canadian-marketed products contain 200 metered doses.
 - **Expression of strength:** The UK-authorized product states “400 mcg per metered dose” whereas the Canadian format for expressing the equivalent strength is “0.4 mg per metered dose”.

Information about the UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray for healthcare professionals is available on the medSask website at <https://medsask.usask.ca/professional-practice/drug-shortages>.

What will individuals pay for the UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray? Individuals will pay according to their usual coverage, deductible and/or copayment.

Can I dispense the UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray 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 UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray for use in Canada.

- If the prescription authorizes the dispensing of a particular strength and dosage of nitroglycerin spray without specifying a specific brand or product name, then a pharmacist may dispense the UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray.
- Because this product is non-interchangeable, if a prescription directs the dispensing of specific brand of nitroglycerin spray (i.e., Nitrolingual Pump®), a new prescription would be required to dispense UK-authorized glyceryl trinitrate (nitroglycerin) sublingual spray.

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