

Drug Shortages: Colesevelam Tablets

Health Canada has approved the temporary importation of a limited supply of US-labelled colesevelam tablets by Glenmark Pharmaceutical, to help alleviate the current shortage of this product. The US-labelled colesevelam tablets 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 June 27, 2024, the US-labelled colesevelam tablets will be listed temporarily as a **non-interchangeable full Formulary benefit** with the currently listed product on the Saskatchewan Formulary. The Glenmark US-labelled colesevelam tablets are now available.

PseudoDIN	Strength	Product Name	Dosage Form
09858334	625mg	US-labelled colesevelam	Tablets

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

- **Appearance:** The US-labelled colesevelam tablets are off-white to pale yellow film coated tablets with G433 imprinted on one side.
- **Non-medicinal ingredients:** The US-labelled colesevelam tablets have a different product composition (non-medicinal ingredients) than the Canadian marketed products.
- **Storage Conditions:** The US-labelled colesevelam tablets are to be stored at 20° to 25°C vs 15°C to 30°C for the Canadian products however temperature excursions are permitted to 15°C to 30°C.

Information about the US-labelled colesevelam for healthcare professionals is available on the medSask website at https://medsask.usask.ca/sites/medsask/files/2024-04/Glenmark-risk-communication-letter_0.pdf

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

Can I dispense the US-labelled colesevelam tablets 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 colesevelam tablets for use in Canada.

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

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