

## SAFER PRACTICE NOTICE



**March 16, 2018**

- Best Practice**
- Drug Shortage**
- Label change
- Medication Change
- Recall
- Vendor Change

**For the information of:**

Nursing Staff  
 Clinical Nurse Educators  
 Operational Managers  
 Pharmacists  
 Physicians  
 EMS

**Contact:**

**Professional Practice**

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**Shortage of Sterile Water & Sodium Chloride 0.9% for Injection**

**Issue:**

There is a national shortage of 10 mL and 20 mL vials of Sterile Water and Sodium Chloride 0.9% for Injection.

**Actions:**

**Reserve sterile water for injection vials for those medications that can only be reconstituted with sterile water.**

- o Refer to the AHS Provincial Parenteral Monographs for information on alternative sterile liquids for reconstitution
- o See Appendix for a list for medications that **must be reconstituted with sterile water**

When clinically appropriate, collaborate with prescribers to switch IV medications to oral formulations. Consult Pharmacy as needed.

**The minibag stock has now stabilized.**

Infection Prevention and Control has agreed that the use of minibags for **single patient use is temporarily** approved for reconstitution of medications during this shortage.

- o When appropriate, use a reconstitution device
- o When preparing IV direct medications, withdraw desired reconstitution volume from minibag using aseptic technique.
- o Use **one bag- for one patient- for one hour.**
- o Label the minibag and discard used minibag after **one hour.**
- o Multiple accesses to a single use minibag increases the risk of contamination. Remember **new needle, new syringe** every time.

Prefilled Sodium Chloride 0.9% syringes must be used to flush vascular access devices only and **must not** be used for reconstituting medications.

[http://www.ismp.org/newsletters/acutecare/articles/20061116\\_2.asp](http://www.ismp.org/newsletters/acutecare/articles/20061116_2.asp)

**For medication reconstitution DO NOT SUBSTITUTE:**

- o Sterile water for irrigation
- o Sterile water for inhalation
- o Sodium Chloride 0.9% for irrigation
- o Bacteriostatic water for injection

Note: The use of sterile water and normal saline products for **wound care** should be reviewed to identify alternate products and discontinue the use of sterile vials.

**Please Post**

## Medications that MUST be reconstituted ONLY with sterile water

UPDATED APRIL 4, 2018

Refer to Provincial Parenteral Monographs for details

- aldesleukin
- amphotericin B
- amphotericin B liposomal
- ampicillin\*
- anti-thymocyte globulin, RABBIT
- asparaginase (Kidrolase)
- azaTHIOprine
- AZIthromycin
- basiliximab
- bivalirudin
- cefazolin\* **(1 gram vials only)**
- cefuroxime\*
- ceftazidime\*
- cloxacillin\*
- dantrolene
- deferoxamine
- digoxin Immune Fab
- erythromycin\*
- estrogens, conjugated
- infliximab **(Inflectra brand only)**
- interferon alfa-2b
- OLANZapine
- pamidronate
- pembrolizumab
- pentamidine
- piperacillin
- pralidoxime
- rifAMPin
- streptomycin
- t-PA (Cathflo) – new as of April 4th
- vancomycin\*
- voriconazole

\* These drugs have historically been reconstituted using the Mini Bag Plus® system. There is no published data available to support that they can be reconstituted with any product other than SWI. Currently Pharmacy Services is investigating.

Provincial Monographs: <http://webappsint.albertahealthservices.ca/pharmacy/pm/index.asp>

Information Provided by AHS Drug Information Team

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