Cisatracurium 2 mg/mL injection shortage

The Issue:
Cisatracurium 2 mg/mL injection is available in limited supply. The only Canadian manufacturer that is currently available is Omega. Omega has noted that the ordering restrictions are anticipated to continue until July 2016.

Key changes include:
- Physicians should be aware of the shortage of cisatracurium 2 mg/mL injection.
- In order to conserve our stock and ensure it is available for those patients with the most urgent need, cisatracurium injection should be reserved for neuromuscular blockade in the following clinical situations:
  - Severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in patients undergoing mechanical ventilation
  - Hepatic dysfunction
  - Renal failure
  - Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients awaiting transplant
  - Hypersensitivity to rocuronium
- The suggested formulary alternative* for other indications include the following, as clinically appropriate:
  - Rocuronium injection

*Alternatives are provided for clinician information, are not all inclusive, and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinician judgement.

Action:
Please post this notice in your area and ensure all staff is informed about the change.

Contact:
Please contact your site pharmacy department with any questions or concerns.

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