A Message to Patients, Families and Caregivers

We are working with your care teams to meet your medication needs

You may be aware that some injectable drugs in Canada are in short supply. This message is to answer questions you may have about what this means for your care. Alberta Health Services is working closely with your care providers, physician and physician leaders, governments and others involved in contracting and ordering drugs to secure a stable supply. The situation has been caused by a manufacturing problem at the supplier, Sandoz Canada.

Effective and safe treatment is our first priority. In most cases there are a number of different drugs, that can be used to treat many conditions. Because of the shortage, in some cases injectable drugs will be replaced by oral medications. But you should know that oral medications will be used only when a patient’s condition is suitable for oral therapy and only when your physician advises that it is safe and effective to do so.

Injectable medications for treatment of symptoms, such as pain and nausea, will continue to be provided to those patients whose conditions require them. You can be assured that your physician will make decisions that are best for you and your care.

At this time, current stock levels of medications are enough to meet patient care needs for most procedures, treatment, and symptom control. Physicians and health care providers are also developing back-up plans to ensure that current stock levels can be maintained for as long as possible. Alberta Health and Wellness is also leading a national effort to address this shortage, now and in the future.

We are monitoring this shortage very closely and working to ensure that Albertans will continue to receive the highest quality care and treatment. But should you have any questions or concerns about your medications, please ask your physician or another member of your care team who will provide you with more detailed information. Thank-you for your patience and understanding.

For more information, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca
or call Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-LINK (5465)

Dr. Chris Eagle Dr. David Megran
President and Chief Executive Officer Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer