chlorproMAZine 25 mg/mL injection shortage

The Issue:
There is a back order of chlorproMAZine 25 mg/mL, 2 mL ampoules. The only Canadian manufacturer of this product is Sandoz, which has indicated a mid-May 2014 release date. Stock levels are steadily depleting and inventory will likely be depleted prior to the resolution of this back order.

Key changes include:
- Physicians should be aware of the shortage of chlorproMAZine injection.
- Use oral dosage form wherever possible.
- Use a therapeutic alternative* as clinically appropriate. Potential injectable alternatives:
  - For the prevention or treatment of nausea and vomiting include: ondansetron, dexamethasone, dimenhydrinate, metoclopramide, and promethazine
  - For anti-psychotic use: methotrimeprazine, prochlorperazine* (phenothiazine class) or drugs from other anti-psychotic classes (haloperidol, loxapine, olanzapine, zuclopenthixol)
  * Please note that the injectable formulation of prochlorperazine is also affected by the Sandoz drug shortage situation.
  - For treatment of intractable hiccups: metoclopramide, baclofen.
- Conserve chlorproMAZine injection for use in patients for whom alternatives are not suitable.

*Alternatives are provided for clinician information 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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