Meperidine 50 mg/mL and 100 mg/mL Injections Impending Shortage

The Issue:
There is an anticipated back order of meperidine 50 mg/mL and 100 mg/mL injections expected in July 2012. The only Canadian manufacturer of these products is Sandoz and we are unable to get further supply. Meperidine 75 mg/mL injection is available but is on allocation and supply of this strength will not meet current demands. Meperidine 10 mg/mL PCA syringes remain available but are reserved for PCA use only.

Key messages:
• Physicians should be aware of the shortage of meperidine injection.
• Meperidine injection is used as an adjunct to anaesthesia and pre-operative sedation, to prevent post-operative shivering, and to reduce rigors from amphotericin B, or from blood products.

In order to conserve our stock and ensure it is available for those patients where alternatives do not exist, the following is recommended:
  ➢ Switch to an alternative parenteral or oral opioid as clinically appropriate (use of oral opioids is preferred whenever possible).

AHS Provincial Drug Formulary is available at the following link:
http://intraweb01.albertahealthservices.ca/pharmacy/ahs_formulary/search_formulary.aspx

*Alternative(s) are provided for clinician information and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinician judgement.

Please note that codeine, morphine, hydromorphone, and fentanyl injections are also affected by the current Sandoz drug shortage situation; with the exception of codeine injection, inventory levels are currently stable.

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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