Ondansetron 2 mg/mL injection shortage

The Issue:
Several injectable products from Sandoz Canada are in short supply. While we will continue to receive injectable products we will not receive enough to meet our current utilization. Ondansetron 2 mg/mL injection is considered to be at a critical level.

Key changes include:
In order to conserve our stock to ensure it is available for those patients where alternatives do not exist, the following is recommended.

- Switch ondansetron injection to the oral route if at all possible.
- If patient cannot take tablets, consider ondansetron ODT or ondansetron oral solution.

The following antiemetics are also available on the AHS Provincial Drug Formulary:
Please note that the injectable formulations of the alternatives noted below are also affected by the current Sandoz drug shortage situation; although they are not currently at critical levels.

- Dexamethasone – Use oral route if at all possible, preserve IV stock for critical uses.
- Dimenhydrinate – Use oral or rectal route if at all possible, preserve IV stock for critical uses.
- Granisetron – Switch to the oral route if at all possible. If patient cannot take tablets, consider ondansetron ODT or ondansetron oral solution before using granisetron IV.
- Metoclopramide – Use oral route if at all possible, preserve IV stock for critical uses.
- Prochlorperazine – Use oral or rectal route if at all possible, preserve IV stock for critical uses.

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

Contact: Site Pharmacy Department for any questions or concerns.

Prepared by: Tracey Simpson, Manager, Procurement, Inventory & Service Performance