National, Long Term Disruption to Injectable Medication Supply

The Issue:
Sandoz Canada has advised AHS of supply disruptions for a large number of injectable drugs for which they are the sole source or major provider. The shortage is expected to last 12-18 months as Sandoz reengineers production processes to meet manufacturing FDA requirements. Some products will be discontinued, while the production of others will be temporarily suspended and reintroduced when plant capacity improves.

This disruption has resulted in backorder situations for a number of injectable medications and existing stock levels are insufficient to meet current utilization demand.

Key points include:
- Large number of sole source injectable medications affected (> 100)
- The supply disruption has already impacted stock levels and is expected to last 12 to 18 months.
- National and provincial strategies and contingencies to manage the situation are not fully known and are still under development. Current actions include:
  - Determination of supply capacity from alternate vendors
  - Develop ordering processes and allocation quantities with Sandoz
  - Determination of "stock depletion dates" for specific injectable medications from current supply and allocation quantities

Action:
- The oral administration route should be utilized where possible
- Physicians should consider alternative medications where appropriate
- Nursing should maximize use of injectable products following best practice guidelines to reduce waste

- Additional medication postings for specific medication shortages will be distributed if stock quantities become critical

- The following medications are of particular concern due to current quantities on hand, current usage and ordering allocations:
  - Midazolam, Hydromorphone, Morphine, Fentanyl, Ketorolac, Furosemide, Amiodarone, Tobramycin, Norepinephrine, Rocuronium

Please post this notice in your area and ensure all staff is informed about the disruption in supply.

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