

LIST OF DRUG SUPPLY SHORTAGES/DISCONTINUATIONS

Drug supply shortages continue to present a challenge to all health care professionals. An interruption in volume and type of medication available to patients has increased in recent years. Therefore, greater attention to the subject is now warranted to ensure optimal pharmaceutical care for patients and to maintain patient safety. Supply shortages vary nationwide between regions and between governmental and non-governmental organizations. Itemized below is a list of drugs in short-supply for 2005. This list is not meant to be exhaustive and should serve only as a useful source of reference.

Drug Product	Manufacturer(s)	Reason for Shortage	Expected Date of Availability
Alendronate Sodium Tab. 40mg	Merck	For patients with Paget's disease the 40mg strength is available via limited distribution program.	Merck Paget's Patient Support Program Health care Professionals should contact Pharmacare at 888-900-3232 to register a patient.
Alfentanil Injection 500mcg/mL	Hospira: Baxter: Akron	Baxter attributes the product shortage to manufacturing difficulties.	Hospira has both 2ml & 5ml amps. Baxter has all products on back order with no release date. Akron has all products available but had discontinued the 20mL vial.
Amiodarone Hydrochloride Injection Cordarone IV 50mg/mL	Wyeth	Wyeth would not provide a reason for the shortage.	Wyeth has no estimate of the release date. Amiodarone injection is available from American Pharmaceutical Partners, Bedford Lab, Bioniche, Mayne Pharma and Gensia-Sicor
Atracurium Besylate	Hospira (formerly Abbott)	Manufacturing delays caused by raw material shortage	Hospira has discontinued all atracurium products. Baxter, Bedford and Mayne all have products available.
Benzylopenicilloyl Polylyseine Injection	Hollister-Stier	The company was unable to locate another manufacturer for the product.	The company has discontinued this product. There are no alternative manufacturers of this product.

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Betamethasone acetate and betamethasone sodium phosphate 6mg/mL suspension for injection and betamethasone sodium phosphate 4mg/mL solution for injection (Celestone® Soluspan, Celestone Phosphate)	Schering-Plough	Betamethasone acetate and betamethasone sodium phosphate injection (Celestone Soluspan) has been on nationwide back order since late 2000 because of increased demand for the product. Schering-Plough discontinued production of betamethasone sodium phosphate injection (Celestone Phosphate) in May 2002	Schering-Plough has limited supplies of betamethasone acetate and betamethasone sodium phosphate injection (Celestone Soluspan) available only in labor and delivery settings. Hospitals can obtain 4 vials per day via McKesson. Betamethasone sodium phosphate 4mg/mL has been discontinued.
Calcium gluconate injection	American Regent	Increased demand	The company is providing limited supply for emergency release.
Carmustine injection 100mg	Bristol Myers Squibb	Reason for the allocation was not provided	The company can not estimate when routine supplies will be available. The company is allocating it to patients already on carmustine- containing regimens. BMS should be called at 1-800-631-5244 for ordering product.
Carvedilol (Coreg)	GSK	Production delays	There are limited supplies of all strengths. The company recommends not starting new patients therapy.
Cefazolin injection	American Pharmaceutical Partners (APP), Hospira	No reason for shortage was provided	App has 1gram vials on backorder with no release date, and is limiting orders for its 10gram bulk vials. Hospira discontinued its cefazolin products in December 2004.
Cefepime (Maxipime) injection	Elan	No reason for the shortage was provided.	Elan is releasing the 2g vials as they become available. All other supplies of Cefipime are on back order. The

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			company has not announced a date for resolution of the shortage. For emergencies contact 888-638-7605.
Cefoxitin Sodium Injection	Merck, Baxter, American Pharm.	All of Merck's vials cefoxitin (Mefoxin) have been discontinued. Flexible containers of Mefoxin in frozen dextrose bags are in short supply.	Baxter's cefoxitin in vials are on back order with no release date. American Pharm. Partners has all products available without restriction.
Cefotetan Injection (Cefotan)	AstraZeneca	The company stopped making Cefotan due to manufacturing problems	Baxter is providing Cefotetan in 1g or 2g frozen bags.
Cefuroxime Injection	American Pharmaceutical Partners (APP), Sandoz, GlaxoSmithKline	No reason for shortage was provided	APP has its 750mg, 1.5g and 7.5g vials on back order. With release dates of August 2005, October 2005 and no release date respectively. Sandoz has discontinued production of cefuroxime products. GlaxoSmithKline has all cefuroxime products available.
Crotalide Antivenom Polyvalent injection (Crotalidae®) Crotalidae polyvalent Immune Fab (CroFab) injection	Wyeth-ESI Lederle Protherics/ Savage Laboratories	Wyeth discontinued its antivenin products in January 2001 but has resumed manufacturing the product. CroFab is on nationwide back order due to manufacturing difficulties.	Crotalidae is currently on back order with no estimated release date. CroFab is now being distributed by Fougera, the product is available and being released to wholesalers
Dexamethasone sodium phosphate injection	American Regent (APP) and Teva-Sicor	Disruption in manufacturing	Limited supplies of several concentrations are available including 4mg/mLx 30mL and 10mg/mLx 1mL (Baxter)
Echothiophate powder for Ophthalmic solution 0.125% (5ml)	Wyeth	Wyeth is the only manufacturer of echothiophate powder for ophthalmic solution (Phospholine Iodide)	This product is available on a limited basis to physicians and pharmacist. Call 800-666-7248 for ordering information.

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Fluorouracil Injection	Valeant Pharmaceuticals International		Valeant Pharmaceuticals has fluorouracil injection on back order with no release date. The injection is available through Sicor and APP
Fluticasone (Flovent)	GSK	Raw materials shortage	The 44mcg and 220mcg are in short supply. Flovent with CFC propellant has been phased out.
Gonadorelin Injection 100mcg/mL	Wyeth, Now Baxter	No explanation given	Product on long term back order. Baxter can not estimate a release date of product.
Guaiifenesin Extended Release Products 575mg, 600mg, 1000mg, 1200mg	All manufacturers	The FDA required all manufacturers to discontinue marketing such products or to submit an NDA.	Only one currently approved product, (Mucinex) 600mg extended release by Adams is available; it is an over the counter product. Humabid LA now includes a second ingredient, 300mg Potassium Guaiacolsulfonate.
Haemophilus B Conjugate Vaccine (HibTITER)	Wyeth	No reason for shortage was provided	Wyeth will not estimate a release date for the vaccine. Merck, and Aventis do have the product readily available.
Hepatitis A virus vaccine (Havrix) adult formulation	GSK	Increased market demand for product due to recent hurricanes	GSK product is on back order; Merck's brand, Vagta- is available.
Hepatitis B, recombinant (Recombivax HB) adult formulation	Merck	Increased market demand for product	Merck is allocating product. The pediatric and dialysis formulations are available. GSK's brand-Engerix B- is available.
Hydrochlorothiazide oral solution 10mg/mL	Roxane	No reason for shortage was provided. There are no alternative manufacturers for the oral solution.	Roxane discontinued production of the oral solution in June of 2002. Some tablet strengths have been

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			from some manufacturers have been put on back order. Wyeth has discontinued production of hydrochlorothiazide tablets.
Insulin diluent	Novo Nordisk	The company has no available diluent and no reason for the shortage was described.	Insulin diluent is available from Eli Lilly, for use with Eli Lilly insulins.
Liothyronine Tablets (Cytomel)	King	The manufacturer cannot keep up with demand	King has the 25mcg and 50mcg tablets, 10mcg/mL injection available. The 5mcg are in short supply.
Lithium Carbonate tablets 300mg	Various	No reason for shortage was provided	Lithium Carbonate 300mg tablets have been recalled by Able and UDL and will remain unavailable. Barr and West Ward expect product by the end of August. Roxane has only limited supplies of their product.
Lorazepam Oral Concentrate Solution 2mg/mL	Roxane	No reason for shortage was provided	Roxane the sole manufacturer of lorazepam oral solution has estimated a release date of the end of October 2005.
Methotrexate Injection 25mg/ml	American Pharm. Partners, Bedford, Mayne	Methotrexate injection is in short supply because of manufacturing delays.	American Pharm. Partners has all products on back order until late summer 2005. Bedford has all presentations of its 25mg/mL preservative injection available (2mL, 4mL, 8mL, 10mL Mayne has 25mg/mL 40mL vials preservative free, and 25mg/mL 2mL vials with preservative available but the 1gm powder vials and 20mg powder vials are unavailable

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			with no release date.
Morphine Sulfate	Purdue Frederick	Shortage is due to a manufacturing upgrade.	Extended release morphine sulfate (MS Contin) in the 15mg, 30mg, and 200mg strengths are on back order with no expected release date. Purdue Frederick has discontinued all morphine sulfate immediate release (MSIR) products. Ethex, Roxane, and Ranbaxy have solid and liquid forms of MSIR available.
Mupirocin Calcium Ointment 2% (Bactroban Nasal) 1 gram	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	GSK will not provide a reason for the shortage or when routine supplies will become available	Routine supplies of this product are not available. Customers may obtain a drop shipment of the product by contacting 800-877-1158.
Nafcillin and Oxacillin injection	Sandoz	Production delays	Sandoz is allocating nafcillin and oxacillin is on back order. Baxter has available premixed, frozen nafcillin and oxacillin
Pantoprazole sodium (Protonix) for injection	Wyeth-Ayerst	Not provided	Wyeth is allocating 40mg vials based on past purchase history. The 20mg and 40mg tablets are available.
Paroxetine (Paxil, Paxil CR)	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Manufacturing problems	The immediate release tablets from GSK are in short supply, and may be on intermittent back order. Consistent supplies are anticipated by mid-March 2006.
Penicillin G Injection Potassium	Pfizer	Manufacturing difficulties	Pfizer has all products available. Baxter has frozen bags in strengths of 1,2 and 3 million units; Sandoz has adequate supplies of penicillin G Injection, Potassium.
Pneumococcal 7-valent Conjugate Vaccine	Wyeth	Changes in the company's quality	The company is only allocating the vaccine

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(Prevnar)		assurance processes have caused the short supply of the vaccine.	based on purchases made between May and October 2003. The vaccine is no longer being shipped to wholesalers, customers must purchase the vaccine from Wyeth 800-395-9938.
Procarbazine Capsules 50mg	Sigm Tau	The drug is available in short supply due to manufacturing problems.	Product is available for drop-shipment to pharmacies, in quantities of 1 Bottle (100-count) per pharmacy per week.
Rabies Vaccine	Aventis	Recall of product	The rabies vaccine (Imovax) is not available due to a recall in April 2004. Aventis expects the product to be available by the end of 2005. Chiron has adequate supplies of RabAvert for pre and post exposure immunizations.
Rosiglitazone and metformin (Avandamet) tablets	GSK	New documentation procedures required for manufacturing facility.	The company has no supplies. The single ingredient products are available [rosiglitazone (Avandia) and metformin (multiple sources)]
Secobarbital (Seconal) 100mg capsule	Ranbaxy Laboratories	Manufacturing difficulties because raw materials were not approved.	There is no alternative manufacturer of secobarbital. Ranbaxy estimates a release date of January 2006.
Thiamine Hydrochloride (Vitamin B ₁) injection 100mg.mL	American Pharmaceutical Partners (APP)	No reason for shortage was provided	APP, the sole manufacturer of the thiamine injection will allocate the product as it becomes available. Oral thiamine preparations are not affected by this shortage.
Ticarcillin (Ticar)	Hospira	Discontinued by manufacturer	The product is no longer manufactured in the US. Ticarcillin/clavulanate (Timentin) is available from GSK.

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Triamcinolone diacetate (Aristocort, Aristocort Forte) hexacetonide (Aristopan), and acetamide (Kenalog-40)	Sandoz Bristol-Myers Squibb	Increased demand, production problems and raw material shortages.	Triamcinolone hexacetonide is now available from Sandoz as 20mg/mL in 1 mL vials and 5mg/mL in 5mL vials. Triamcinolone diacetate is not available and Sandoz will not estimate a launch date. Bristol- Myers Squibb has Kenalog-40 now available.
Vancomycin HCL injection	1) APP 2) Hospira 3) Baxter	1) Cannot meet current demand 2) Short supply due to increased demand 3) On back order for unknown reason	Hospira is allocating product. Baxter is providing frozen premixed product.
Vincristine Injection	Sicor Pharmaceuticals	No reason for shortage was provided	Sicor has no Vincristine injection available. The company is out of stock and does not expect another release until the end of August 2005.