

A Systems Approach to Drug Shortages

Provincial and Territorial Perspective

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Ministry of
Health



This presentation was created on the traditional territory of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

The ləkʷəŋən Peoples' connection with the land goes back thousands of years, during which time they developed a finely balanced relationship with the seasons, the lands and the tides that sustained them.

Presenter/speaker personal disclosure



Ministry of
Health

Presenter's name: Stefanie Black

I have received no speaker's fee for this learning activity

This program has received no financial or in-kind support from any commercial or other organization

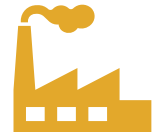
I am a current employee of the British Columbia government with position funding being shared between provinces and territories

Learning Objectives



1. Understand some reasons for drug shortages in Canada
2. Understand the Tier 3 drug shortage process
3. Gain knowledge of drug mitigation strategies employed at different levels of the health system

Why do drug shortages happen?



Manufacturing problem or delay



Sudden increase in demand



Shipping delays



Raw materials and ingredients shortage



Drug discontinuation



Natural disaster



Pandemic

What are we doing about it?



The provincial/ territorial drug shortages task team

Representation

- Provincial and territorial governments
- Health authorities
- Group purchasing organizations (GPOs)
- Department of National Defence
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Correctional Service Canada





Multistakeholder calls



Communications and guidance



Escalate critical shortages



Inventory sharing and allocations



- Representatives from federal, provincial and territorial governments, and health care professional associations
- Recommends tier assignments to Health Canada
 - **Tier 3: Shortage with the greatest potential impact on Canada's drug supply and health care system**

Tools following Tier 3 determination








- Clinical guidance
- Prioritization
- Allocations
- Good manufacturing practice (GMP) flexibilities
- Exceptional importation
- Expedited review



Exceptional importation

Drugs added to the list of drugs for exceptional importation and sale



Brand name of drug, medicinal ingredient(s) 	Dosage form, strength, route(s) of administration 	Country of authorization, name of foreign regulatory authority, identifying code or number 	Name of importing licensee 	Lot number and quantities 	Date product added to this list 	Date after which drug may no longer be imported 
BSS Sterile Irrigating Solution, balanced salt solution	Solution, 500 mL, Irrigation	United States, Food and Drug Administration, National Drug Code (NDC): 0065-1795-04	Alcon Canada Inc.	N/A	February 16, 2023	June 30, 2023
Calcitonin Salmon Injection, USP, Synthetic <i>Calcitonin Salmon</i>	Solution, 200 units Intramuscular (IM), Subcutaneous (SC)	United States, US FDA, NDC 24201-400-02	Hikma Canada Limited	N/A	April 24, 2023	September 30, 2024
Calcium Chloride / DEMO 10% w/v Solution for Infusion	Solution, 10% w/v, Intravenous	Greece, National Organization for Medicines, 24623/15/2-8-2016	Juno Pharmaceuticals Corp.	N/A	December 14, 2023	April 30, 2024

Pharmaceutical supply chain sub-committee

- Hospital drug shortages
- Coordinated approach
- Equitable access

PharmaCare Helpdesk

- Releasing coverage for alternatives
- More thorough supply assessments

BC drug shortages webpage

- Alerts
- Spreadsheets of current and resolved shortages



Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Drug Shortages

Members: Industry associations, federal, provincial and territorial governments, and health care professional associations

Goal: Improve and provide strategic guidance on the communication, mitigation and prevention of drug shortages



Health Canada's 4-year plan

From 2024 to 2028, HC has committed to improving:

- Drug shortage reporting
- Information management and sharing (by industry and regulators)
- Federal regulatory requirements

Health Canada is engaging with the provinces and territories throughout this process



Questions



Health Canada sites:

[Drug shortages homepage \(drugshortagescanada.ca\)](https://drugshortagescanada.ca)

[Tier 3 drug shortages - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/shortages/tier-3-drug-shortages.html)

[List of drugs for exceptional importation and sale - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/shortages/list-of-drugs-for-exceptional-importation-and-sale.html)

[Drug supply notices - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/shortages/drug-supply-notice.html)

[Health Canada's plan to address health product shortages, 2024 to 2028 - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/shortages/health-canada-plan-to-address-health-product-shortages-2024-to-2028.html)

Other resources:

[Drug Shortages - English \(pharmacists.ca\)](https://www.pharmacists.ca/shortages)

[Drug Shortages and Discontinuations | medSask \(usask.ca\)](https://www.usask.ca/medSask/shortages)

[Drug shortages - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/health/shortages)