

Medication Shortage Notice

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Issued by Medicines and Technology Programs, SA Health
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicationsafety



A patient **Safety Notice** strongly advises the implementation of particular recommendations or solutions to improve quality and safety.

We recommend you inform:

- General Managers
- Pharmacy Directors
- Medical Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Nursing Directors
- Acute Pain Service
- Anaesthesia
- Palliative Care
- SA Ambulance Service
- MedSTAR
- Oncology and Haematology Units
- Hospital @ Home
- Drug and Therapeutics Committees
- Medication Safety Committees
- Safety and Quality Units
- Clinical Governance

Contact details:

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Government
of South Australia

SA Health

National Shortage of Morphine Sulfate 30mg/mL Injection

Purpose

- > To inform SA Health staff of a national shortage of morphine sulfate 30mg/mL injection.

Summary of Issues

- > Morphine sulfate 30mg/mL injection is currently unavailable from Australian distributors, due to a manufacturing shortage.
- > Alternative morphine injection products are available at SA Health sites; including DBL® morphine sulfate 10mg/mL injection.
- > It is anticipated the shortage will be resolved by late June 2019.

SA Health Action Plan

- > SA Pharmacy is closely monitoring stock levels and will coordinate transfers between sites as needed.
- > Consider use of DBL® morphine sulfate 10mg/mL injection or other clinically appropriate alternatives.

Action Required by SA Health Staff:

1. Be aware of the current shortage of morphine sulfate 30mg/mL injection, and consider use of an alternative strength of morphine sulfate injection or, other clinically appropriate medicines.
2. Ensure appropriate checking procedures are in place when selecting and preparing different strength morphine products.

Action Required by SA Health Services:

1. Ensure all relevant staff are aware of and have access to this notice.
2. Determine a local approach in conjunction with the LHN Pharmacy Department, Pain or Palliative Care Services, and/or other local specialists as appropriate.
3. For any enquiries or urgent supply concerns, please contact your Pharmacist or Pharmacy Department.

For further information, please email HealthMedicationSafety@sa.gov.au

The [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) provides details of medicines shortages and the expected timeframe for supplies to return to normal.

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