



BC PharmaCare Newsletter



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PHARMANET LIMITS FOR EPIPENS

Pfizer Canada has indicated that the current low supply of EpiPen® 0.3 mg (DIN 00509558) and EpiPen Jr.® 0.15 mg (DIN 00578657) will continue for an unknown period of time, due to manufacturing delays. Currently, at least one distributor in B.C. has stock, and there is no immediate critical shortage situation in B.C.

To preserve existing stock, PharmaCare is implementing a limit in PharmaNet for EpiPen products, to two per dispense. This limit will be in effect as of Wednesday, April 18, 2018. There are no annual limits at this time. The dispensing limit will remain in place after the shortage has resolved to assist in optimizing dispensing these products, due to their short shelf life.

As of April 17, 2018, the [national drug shortages website](#) lists both EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. as actual shortages.

Pfizer is managing the national supply through measured allocation to wholesalers. Pharmacies should not attempt to place orders for amounts in excess of previously used stock.

Please use professional judgement when dispensing EpiPen products. Patients should be reminded that stockpiling these products is not recommended due to their short shelf life. Health Canada advises that in an emergency, expired EpiPens should be used if no other EpiPen is available. After using an expired EpiPen, patients or their caregivers should call 9-1-1.



The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment. Information on PharmaNet is not exhaustive and cannot be relied upon as complete. The absence of a warning about a drug or drug combination is not an indication that the drug or drug combination is safe, appropriate or effective in any given patient. Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.

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