



CANADIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' SOCIETY
Société canadienne des anesthésiologistes

CAS Medication Shortage Bulletin: Succinylcholine Chloride

November 2023

Dear CAS members,

Canadian suppliers of succinylcholine chloride in Canada are currently reporting shortages due to a combination of production interruptions and increased demand. It is expected that hospitals will see reduced supplies of this medication in the coming weeks/months and the exact duration of this supply issue is unclear at this time.

Given succinylcholine's unique properties and the lack of a suitable alternative, CAS has met with Health Canada to express the significant clinical impact of this medication shortage. As a result, the Drug Shortages Unit at Health Canada is exploring all mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of this shortage.

We ask our CAS members to share this bulletin with their colleagues. We encourage individuals and departments (in conjunction with their hospital pharmacies and/or health authority) to actively explore all conservation strategies that work in their local contexts. We hope that conservation measures will help to reduce the clinical impact of this medication shortage.

Should you encounter any adverse events related to the succinylcholine shortage, we encourage you to report these within your hospital reporting systems as well as to the CAS (anesthesia@cas.ca) and ISMP Canada (https://www.ismp-canada.org/err_ipr.htm). We will remain in contact with Health Canada to closely monitor the situation.