

## Update on the Lorazepam Injection Shortage

We are still experiencing difficulty in purchasing any lorazepam for injection. Our supply is very low at the acute care sites. Please note, this only effects IV / IM lorazepam, there are no shortage concerns with the oral product. We are taking the following actions:

- 1) The CIWA protocol has been modified. There is a diazepam CIWA option in EPIC. The pharmacist can also amend any CIWA orders, replacing injectable lorazepam with injectable diazepam (lorazepam 1mg = diazepam 5mg). Injectable diazepam is also in very short supply. **Phenobarbital injection is our alternative if diazepam isn't available.** There are EPIC orders for phenobarbital CIWA.
- 2) When ordering lorazepam injection for a hospitalized patient, there will be a BPA in EPIC that leads you to the main alternative -- midazolam.
- 3) For the ED patient, we are attempting to keep a supply of lorazepam as long as possible as this is a high use area. When / if we run out, there will be a med panel in EPIC "lorazepam shortage" which includes midazolam options and also ketamine.
- 4) The **CHS IV Guidelines** have been amended to allow all nurses to administer diazepam (for CIWA) or midazolam in other scenarios as an alternative to lorazepam. Both of these agents are given IVP over 1-2 minutes, the potential adverse effects include hypotension and sedation, similar to lorazepam.

**\*Other alternative options may include, depending upon patient circumstance, IM midazolam, sublingual lorazepam or sublingual alprazolam**

### Lorazepam Shortage

#### Lorazepam Shortage: Midazolam

Due to national Lorazepam shortage please substitute per guidelines:

Ordered Medication	Ordered Dose	Substitution Medication	Substitution Dose
Lorazepam	1 mg IV x1	Midazolam	2 mg IV x1
Lorazepam	2 mg IV x1	Midazolam	4 mg IV x1
Lorazepam	2 mg IM x1	Midazolam	5 mg IM x1

- ☐ midazolam (Versed) 2 mg IV injection: for Lorazepam 1 mg IV  
2 mg, intravenous, Once
- ☐ midazolam (Versed) 4 mg IV injection: for Lorazepam 2 mg IV  
4 mg, intravenous, Once
- ☐ midazolam (Versed) 5 mg IM injection: for Lorazepam 2 mg IM  
5 mg, intramuscular, Once