

FMOLHS Drug Shortage Memo

To: All Providers

From: Pharmacy Department

Date: 6/10/2022

Drug Affected: IV Fosphenytoin and IV Valproic Acid

Dear Providers,

Currently, there is a nationwide shortage of IV Fosphenytoin and IV Valproic Acid due to manufacturing delays and/or increased demand. At OLOLRMC, we have a very limited stock, and no new supply will be available for a while (pending availability from manufacturers).

Fosphenytoin and valproic acid are two widely used anti-epileptic medications. To address this shortage, Pharmacy has provided the following recommendations for alternative agents for adult patients.

Recommendations Summary for anti-epileptic alternatives during the period of shortage

- Reserve both IV formulations for patients who cannot take oral medications or patients actively seizing
- Switch to oral formulations of both drugs as soon as its clinically appropriate
- If clinically appropriate, can use another IV anti-epileptic medication
- If current supply of IV Fosphenytoin and IV Valproic Acid is exhausted; other IV formulations of anti-epileptic drugs currently on formulary are shown below.
- If available and needed; will purchase IV Phenytoin for maintenance dosing use only*

IV anti-epileptic drugs on formulary	Unit Restrictions	Clinical Considerations
Lacosamide (Vimpat)	None	<u>Caution in renal impairment:</u> will require a lower dosing regimen
Levetiracetam (Keppra)	None	<u>Caution in renal impairment:</u> may require a lower dosing regimen
Brivaracetam (Briviact)	None	<u>Caution in hepatic impairment:</u> will require a lower dosing regimen
Phenobarbital	Critical Care Units Progressive Care Units Cardiac Telemetry Units Medical Telemetry (monitored patient only)	May cause hypotension and respiratory depression when administered IV
Pentobarbital	Critical Care Units - use for refractory status epilepticus	May cause hypotension and respiratory depression when administered IV.
Phenytoin*	None	For use as maintenance dosing only , use IV Fosphenytoin for the loading dose only. IV push slowly less than 50mg/min. Monitor for hypotension

*For more information on this shortage, please visit: [ASHP Drug Shortage List](#)

For any questions/concerns, please contact:

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