



Date: June 9, 2023

To: Physicians, Midwives, Nurses, and Perinatal Program Leaders

From: Perinatal Services BC and PHSA Pharmacy Procurement

RE: Betamethasone 6mg/mL Shortage

Betamethasone 6 mg/mL injection is on backorder from Organon Canada Inc., the sole manufacturer of this product, **until September 2023**. As a result there is an ongoing shortage and a limited availability of betamethasone 6mg/ml injection for use in the context of preterm labour and threatened preterm labour diagnoses. The following strategy is recommended to manage this backorder:

- Where betamethasone is still available, **betamethasone 12mg IM every 24 hours for two doses** is the first choice for antenatal corticosteroids.
- When the supply of betamethasone is depleted, the alternate is **dexamethasone 6mg IM every 12 hours for four doses**. Oral use of dexamethasone is not a reasonable alternative.

If patient transfer occurs during the course of antenatal corticosteroids, the recommendations are:

- If a pregnant person is started on a course of dexamethasone and is transferred to a facility that still has betamethasone, **the course of dexamethasone should be completed**.
- If a pregnant person is started on a course of betamethasone and is transferred to a facility with betamethasone, **the course of betamethasone should be completed**.
- If a pregnant person receives betamethasone and is transferred to a facility without betamethasone available, they should receive **dexamethasone 6 mg IM every 12 hours starting 24 hours after the dose of betamethasone for two further doses**.

*Alternative(s) are provided for clinician information and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinician judgment.

Please contact Perinatal Services BC at psbc@phsa.ca if you have any questions.