



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

DANTRIUM™ (dantrolene sodium) 20mg Powder for Injection – Interruption to supply

Date: 3 April 2017

Stock levels of dantrolene sodium injection are not reported or monitored for the purposes of the NSW TAG Life Saving Drugs Register (LSDR). NSW TAG recommends that each hospital/LHD make an individual assessment regarding the need to stock dantrolene sodium, which is indicated along with appropriate supportive care for rare and life-threatening instances of malignant hyperthermia, triggered by general anaesthesia. The Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) has advised that 'the availability of dantrolene is critical for management [of malignant hyperthermia] and should be available wherever procedures involving general anaesthesia are conducted.'

In March 2017, Pfizer Australia advised of an interruption to the supply of DANTRIUM™ 20mg Powder for Injection.

The CEC has recommended that each hospital:

- Identify the areas that dantrolene sodium for injection is stocked.
- Check all expiry dates (current stock may be expiring 31/3/17, 30/6/17 or 31/12/17).
- Not destroy any stock expiring 31/3/17 but hold in quarantine after the 31/3/17 until replacement stock is received.
- If there is not sufficient in date stock:
 - check availability in other sites within your LHD, and
 - ensure theatre staff, after hours managers and on call pharmacists are aware of where to obtain stock
- Ensure that dantrolene sodium for injection is reserved for critical situations.

Further information on the shortage is also available from the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Please visit:

[http://www.anzca.edu.au/front-page-news/dantrolene-\(dantrium\)-supply-compromise](http://www.anzca.edu.au/front-page-news/dantrolene-(dantrium)-supply-compromise)