



Canadian
Pharmacists
Association

Association des
pharmaciens
du Canada

Canadian League Against Epilepsy / Ligue Canadienne Contre l'Épilepsie

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May 10, 2024

Dear Colleagues and esteemed Health Care Providers,

It is with a high degree of concern that we report a current shortage of both carbamazepine controlled-released (CR) tablets (200mg and 400mg) produced by Sandoz and Novartis. The potential earliest availability is mid-end of August 2024; however, the exact available date is currently uncertain.

The Canadian League Against Epilepsy (CLAE) and the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) are currently working with Health Canada's Tier Assignment Committee (TAC) to determine the impact of the shortage in carbamazepine CR supply. We will provide additional information when available. In the meantime, please consider starting new patients on medications other than carbamazepine CR.

Carbamazepine CR formulation is taken twice a day; however, when converting patients from CR to immediate release (IR) carbamazepine, the same total daily dose of carbamazepine should be administered divided BID, TID, or QID, depending on individual patients. Some individuals may need a *reduced* daily dose if switching from CR to IR. Close monitoring of plasma levels and clinical response may be required.

Please refer to your local health authority for further guidance. As a reminder, pharmaco-equivalences are as follows:

- Carbamazepine CR PO 100mg = Carbamazepine IR PO 90-100mg
- Carbamazepine PO 100mg = Oxcarbazepine PO 110 – 150mg.
- Carbamazepine PO 100mg = Eslicarbazepine PO 130mg
- Oxcarbazepine PO 100mg = Eslicarbazepine PO 100mg

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Canadian League Against Epilepsy / Ligue Canadienne Contre l'Épilepsie
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Cc/Health Canada