



VOLUME 9: PHARMACY SERVICES	Effective Date: 1/09
CHAPTER 40	Revision Date (s): 3/13
9.40 MEDICATION SHORTAGES OR BACK ORDERS	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

A system shall be established to ensure that prescribers and other health care professionals are informed when prescribed medications cannot be provided in a timely manner due to inventory shortages, supply system shortages, or back orders. The system shall include a process to allow prescribers to change therapy when appropriate, and to notify health care professionals and patient-inmates of the change.

II. PURPOSE

The system will ensure that prescribers have the opportunity to assess the impact on patient-inmate therapy and adjust the care plan in a timely fashion when medications are unavailable due to supply system interruptions.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. When it is determined that a prescribed medication is unavailable from the supplier due to inventory shortage, manufacturer shortages, back order, or other reason, the pharmacy shall assess the anticipated duration of delay.
- B. The pharmacy staff shall communicate to the prescriber or designee and nursing staff when medication cannot be provided in the expected timeframe due to supply system interruptions (Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 9, Chapter 38: Prescription Turnaround Time).
 - 1. The communication shall include an anticipated timeframe for obtaining the medication
 - 2. The prescriber will determine the appropriate response and inform the pharmacist. He/she will prescribe an alternative medication or authorize a delay in medication delivery if the timeframe is safe and appropriate.
 - 3. The prescriber shall document the decision to prescribe an alternative medication or authorize a delay in the patient-inmate’s electronic Unit Health Record.
 - 4. The pharmacist shall communicate the decision to nursing staff.
 - 5. Nursing staff shall communicate to the patient-inmate when appropriate.
- C. The prescription for the unavailable medication shall be maintained separately from other prescriptions and progress shall be reassessed daily until resolved. A resolution for unavailable medications that are needed immediately or urgently shall be completed before the close of that business day.
- D. If medication becomes unavailable from the manufacturer for an indeterminate period of time, the Pharmacist-In-Charge shall notify the local prescribers, nurses, committees and the Chief of Pharmacy Services.
- E. The Chief of Pharmacy Services shall communicate the shortage to the systemwide Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee.
 - 1. The P&T Committee shall determine if an alternative product can be established as a therapeutic substitute for the unavailable item(s).

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2. The recommendation for alternatives identified by the P&T Committee shall be communicated to all facilities.

IV. REFERENCES

- Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 9, Chapter 38: Prescription Turnaround Time