

# MEDICATION SAFETY COMMUNICATION

Information for health professionals in NSW public health organisations

## GLYCERYL TRINITRATE INJECTION – 14 January 2021

Details of affected product(s)	DBL glyceryl trinitrate injection ampoule 50 mg/10 mL – ARTG 16341
Reason for communication	Supply disruption from 24 January 2021
Date issue made apparent	18 November 2020
Estimated resolution date	31 March 2021

### Main therapeutic applications

Glyceryl trinitrate is a vasodilatory agent belonging to the nitrate drug class. In the injectable form, it is primarily used in heart failure associated with acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, acute pulmonary oedema, hypertensive emergency and sympathomimetic toxidrome.

### Alternative agents

- Glyceryl trinitrate Wockhardt 50 mg/50 mL vials (ARTG 301499) will continue to be available via regular wholesalers during this period of supply disruption – see Product Information [here](#).
- Depending on the indication, alternative agents may also be utilised. Refer to local protocols and the *Therapeutic Guidelines* for further advice.

### Precautions and safety issues associated with alternative products

*Glyceryl trinitrate Wockhardt 50 mg/50 mL –*

- is a different concentration to the DBL product. The Wockhardt brand is **50 mg/50 mL (1 mg/mL) compared to the DBL brand which is 50 mg/10 mL (5 mg/mL)**. Clinicians should exercise caution when prescribing, preparing and administering this medication to prevent underdosing,
- comes in a vial presentation compared to the ampoule presentation of the DBL product,
- does **not** contain ethanol which is present in the DBL product, and
- contains glucose (2.45 g/50 mL) and glucose monohydrate (77 mg/50 mL) which are not present in the DBL product.

### Impacts of this communication on clinical practice

- If facilities switch to the Wockhardt product, **local protocols and guidelines referring to the 50 mg/10 mL product may need to be amended to reflect the differing concentration**. See Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook (available via [CIAP](#)) for guidance on preparation and administration.

### Associated regulatory or policy issues

PD2013\_043 Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities

#### Key contacts

Clinical Excellence Commission (Medication Safety) – [CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au)  
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