

Recommendations for Drug Allocation, Tuberculosis Prevention, and Patient Care During Isoniazid Shortages

To: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and College/University Health Centers
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There is a nationwide shortage of the tuberculosis (TB) drug isoniazid (INH).

U.S. INH production has been interrupted, and stocks of both 300 mg and 100 mg tablets are being depleted. A forecast date for restoring INH production is late March 2013. However, the forecasts are unstable and vary by company. One of three pharmaceutical companies supplying INH is cancelling all INH backorders and not accepting new orders.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends that while INH is in short supply, clinicians should coordinate TB and LTBI treatment plans with their jurisdictional public health officials, who should set priorities for allocating INH stock locally. These priorities should be set according to the immediate medical needs of individual patients and a general TB control strategy.

Given the limited INH supply, the Health Department has set these guidelines:

- Immediately report suspect cases of active TB disease to the Health Department TB Program (802-863-7240, available 24/7).
- Priorities for allocating limited INH stock at this time:
 - Treat patients who have active TB disease.
 - Complete treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI) in patients at highest risk for progressing to active TB disease.
 - Alternate options for LTBI patients currently receiving INH should be considered and may be needed depending on available inventory.
- Delay starting new patients on INH for treatment of LTBI:
 - Consider treatment with rifampin if appropriate.
 - Develop system to recall delayed patients when INH becomes available.

For questions regarding alternative treatment recommendations or other treatment questions, contact the Health Department TB Program (802-863-7240) - or - Kemper Alston, MD, Vermont's TB medical consultant, through the FAHC Provider Access Service (802- 847-2700). A CDC Health Advisory on the INH shortage was issued on January 28, 2013: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/HAN/han00340.asp>