**IV Loop Diuretic Critical Shortage Plan-Adults:**

**What?** IV loop diuretics are on critical shortage. Due to the severity of the shortage, the following plan will be implemented for adults:

Oral therapy should be utilized where possible. With each new order for IV bumetanide or IV furosemide, the prescriber receives a CPOE order alert notifying them of the shortage with a recommendation to utilize oral therapy where possible. If the prescriber generates an IV order for furosemide or bumetanide, the pharmacist should:

1. Review the profile to see if the patient has other active orders for oral therapy. If so, the pharmacist should contact the prescriber to let them know of the critical nature of the shortage to see if an order for oral therapy can be prescribed.
2. If IV dosing is clinically necessary, a 48-hour stop will be applied to the IV loop diuretic order. An equivalent PO dose of the same agent (see below) will be initiated at the time of the IV loop diuretic discontinuation (pharmacist will put in order for PO loop diuretic to begin 48 hours after the start of the IV loop diuretic).

Please note the conversion information for the loop diuretics as they are not all equal:

IV furosemide to PO conversion is approximately 1:2 (20 mg IV = 40 mg PO)

IV bumetanide to PO conversion is 1:1.

IV torsemide is currently unavailable and stock is depleted. The conversion from IV torsemide to PO torsemide is 1:1.

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**Loop Diuretic Conversion Table Between Agents (reference only-conversion between agents is not an automatic conversion by pharmacy):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furosemide dose (IV or PO)</th>
<th>Equivalent dose (IV or PO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furosemide 40mg</td>
<td>Torsemide 20mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furosemide 40mg</td>
<td>Bumetanide 1mg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Furosemide has variable PO bioavailability in fluid overloaded patients. Oral torsemide and bumetanide may be options due to the higher bioavailability.*

**When?** Effective immediately, December 13, 2012

**Why?** Loop diuretic injection presentations are national shortages due to various reasons including manufacturing delays and manufacturer discontinuation of the medication. The duration of the shortage is unknown at this time.

References:

1. Above adult shortage plan approved by P&T/MEC-March 2012