What?  The current CPOE hard stop alert for IV pantoprazole has been changed to a soft stop alert. The IV pantoprazole shortage remains critical, and alternatives for IV push doses of pantoprazole are being encouraged (see below). Several of our hospitals have secured stock for IV esomeprazole; however, there are some issues with IV esomeprazole in the supply chain. For IV pantoprazole drips, the order may be filled by the pharmacist if stock allows. If stock is better for IV esomeprazole than IV pantoprazole drip, the pharmacist may interchange the order for IV pantoprazole drip to IV esomeprazole drip: IV pantoprazole 80 mg bolus + 8 mg/hour may be interchanged to IV esomeprazole 80 mg bolus + 8 mg/hour. Shortage alerts are available in PharmNet to remind the pharmacist of this.

Shortage Alert

National Shortage

IV pantoprazole is on national shortage and supplies are low. Please consider ordering alternative therapy if clinically appropriate. Alternatives to IV push pantoprazole may include po pantoprazole or IV push famotidine. As an alternative to IV drip orders for pantoprazole, esomeprazole drip may be available in pharmacy. Depending on stock levels, your order for IV pantoprazole drip may be filled by the pharmacy, or it may interchanged by the pharmacist to IV esomeprazole drip.

Alert Action

- Cancel Order
- Proceed with Order

Add Order for:

- pantoprazole → 40 mg, DR Tablet, PO, acb
- pantoprazole → 40 mg, Granule, NG, QDay, Routine
- famotidine → 20 mg, Injection, IV Push, q12h

OK
Why: The sole supplier of IV Protonix (current formulary PPI) has this medication on shortage due to increased demand. IV esomeprazole is available; however, there are some supply disruption issues at this present time. Our adult hospitals have brought in IV esomeprazole as an alternative for those patients on IV pantoprazole drips. The above plan for alternatives was approved by P&T in 2015, and an addendum to allow for a reverse interchange for orders for pantoprazole IV drip to esomeprazole IV drip was approved through the emergency drug shortage approval process on July 21st.

References:

2. Trissel’s Handbook on Injectable Drugs.