

Name of Policy: <u>Drug Shortages</u> Policy Number: 3364-133-89 Department: Pharmacy Approving Officer: Senior Hospital Administrator Responsible Agent: Director of Pharmacy Scope: University of Toledo Medical Center	 Effective Date 2/10/2023 Initial Effective Date: 2/2/2011
<input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

University of Toledo Medical Centers will take a proactive approach to managing medication shortages. The Department of Pharmacy Services and the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee are responsible for investigating and providing information about potential drug shortages that may affect patients at the University of Toledo Medical Center and Clinics. The P&T Committee approves any plans for restricting use or rationing limited supplies.

(B) Purpose of Policy

When the hospital is unable to obtain drug product through the usual commercial channels, patient therapy may be compromised. This policy describes the process for evaluating drug shortages, managing scarce resources, and minimizing impact on patient care.

(C) Definitions

Drug shortage – a supply issue that affects how the pharmacy department prepares or dispenses a product or influences patient care when prescribers must choose an alternative therapy because of supply problems.

(D) Procedure

- A. Identifying drug shortages: Staff who identify a real or potential drug shortage should contact the pharmacy department (419-383-4080). The pharmacy department routinely screens for shortages through national databases and the pharmacy group purchasing organizations.
- B. The inventory control specialist will investigate potential drug shortages by contacting all manufacturers of the product to determine current availability.
- C. The inventory control specialist will work through the usual commercial channels such as the drug wholesaler or the manufacturer to purchase supplies of the drug product.
- D. The inventory control specialist will identify available inventory and usual use patterns and will inform pharmacy administration if they are able to purchase additional supplies of the drug.
- E. If the supply situation meets the definition of a drug shortage, the pharmacy department may develop a management strategy in cooperation with the clinicians most affected by the shortage.
- F. The P&T Committee will approve decisions to ration or restrict product to a specific patient populations. The chair of the P&T Committee, in an emergent situation, can approve the use of a non-formulary agent until the shortage is resolved if applicable.
- G. The pharmacy department will notify P&T and affected clinicians about drug shortages via e-mail, newsletters, and/or web site. The information provided will include when applicable:

