

Sandoz Canada continues to work with key stakeholders to help ensure continued supply of critical medicines.



- Ongoing efforts to strengthen high-quality manufacturing standards have resulted in a temporary slow-down of production at the Boucherville, Quebec, manufacturing site

- Production at the site continues and is prioritized around essential products to help ensure continued supply of critical drugs to patients

- Regular and transparent communication with healthcare practitioners and key stakeholders to find best possible solutions to meeting patient needs will continue.

Boucherville, Quebec, February 29, 2012 – Sandoz Canada is continuing its efforts to maintain reliable supply of essential medicines following a temporary slow-down in production, resulting from increased investment in strengthening manufacturing compliance at its Boucherville, Quebec, site.

In light of the November 2011 Warning Letter from the US Food and Drug Administration, Sandoz Canada has intensified its ongoing efforts to ensure high quality standards at this manufacturing plant. As production continues, the company is focusing its efforts on essential medicines and prioritizing resources to ensure normal supply is restored as quickly as possible.

As part of this prioritization, the company has discontinued production of some non-essential drugs, including ointments, ophthalmics, suppositories and certain injectable drugs, for most of which it has already identified potential alternative supply from within Sandoz/Novartis or other qualified third-party suppliers. The company has also temporarily streamlined the

number of formats for several drugs, and is working with suppliers of equivalent drugs and other third-party manufacturers to help meet demand. Sandoz Canada's extensive solid oral product line, patches and Omnitrope® are not affected by the current situation.

Sandoz Canada is also continuing its efforts to keep healthcare practitioners and other key stakeholders regularly updated on product availability. The company has begun issuing a weekly summary of anticipated delays in delivery of critical products, which is available to all healthcare practitioners through its website and has been shared with Health Canada. Patients can address any questions to their healthcare practitioner.

"Our objective is to restore normal levels of supply as soon as possible, and we will make every effort to meet patient needs while ensuring consistent high quality standards in manufacturing and ongoing process improvements in the most transparent way possible," said Sandoz Canada President Michel Robidoux. "We will focus all available capacity on the supply of medically necessary injectable medicines to try to ensure that patients with critical medical conditions continue receiving adequate treatment. Our patients remain our top priority."

Sandoz stands behind the safety, efficacy and quality of its products, and is treating this situation with the utmost priority.

Supply Status Report for Injectables contact: kdobbin@pulsarx.ca

<http://www.sandoz.ca/site/en/products/inventaire/customerletter/>

12 Steps to Stair Safety At Home

Seniors and veterans are more at risk for falling on stairs than younger adults, and more likely to suffer severe injuries. In fact, seniors 65+ account for 70% of the deaths resulting from stair accidents.

Take a few minutes to review the safety of your stairs and how you use them.

1. Is there a light switch at the top and bottom of your stairs? Install lights and switches to ensure all your stairways are well-lit.
2. Are all your steps in good repair? Make sure there are no uneven surfaces, cracks, bunched-up staircovering or protruding nails.
3. Are the steps all of the same size and height? Have a carpenter correct uneven steps. They are a major hazard.
4. Are you able to see the edges of the steps clearly? Paint a contrasting colour on the edge of wooden or concrete steps (or on the top and bottom steps), or apply special strips you can buy to enhance the visibility of each step.
5. If you have a covering on your stairs, is it fastened securely? Stair carpeting can cause slips. Consider removing it or replacing it with well-secured rubber stair treading.
6. Is the handrail well attached to the wall and easily grasped? Make sure the handrail is well-secured and that you can get your full hand around it.
7. Is the handrail at a height of 36 to 39 inches (900 to 1000mm)? There should be a handrail on at least one side of all stairways. The height should allow you to use it comfortably when your arm is slightly bent at the elbow.
8. Are your stairs free of clutter? Avoid storing things temporarily on your stairs. Always check the stairs as you walk up or down.
9. Have you removed loose carpets or throw rugs from your stair landings? Loose floor coverings are a hazard. If you have rugs make sure they are non-slip, or have a rubber backing.
10. Do you take your time when going up or down the stairs? Best way is slowly - hand on the handrail. Rushing is a major cause of falls.
11. Do you make sure your vision isn't blocked as you go up or down your stairs? If you're carrying something, make sure it doesn't hide the stairs and that one hand is free to use the handrail.
Read more: Public Health Agency Canada
12. Do you remove your reading glasses when using stairs? Be sure you remove your reading glasses for walking or climbing up or down stairs. If you use bifocals, adjust your glasses so you can see the stairs clearly.

National Nursing week

Canadian Nurses Association

Date: May 6th - May 12th

Company:

Canadian Nurses Association

Telephone: 1-800-361-840

National Nursing Week was first celebrated in 1985 to highlight nurses' contributions to the well-being of the Canadian public (week that includes 12 May).

In 1971, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) designated May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday, International Nurses Day.

In 1985, CNA passed a resolution to begin negotiations with the federal government to explore having the week including May 12 proclaimed as National Nurses Week (NNW). A few months later, in recognition of the dedication and achievements of the nursing profession, the minister of health at the time proclaimed the second week of May as NNW. In 1993, the name was changed to National Nursing Week to emphasize the profession's accomplishments as a discipline.

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