



**Canadian League Against Epilepsy / Ligue Canadienne Contre l'Épilepsie**

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Dear Colleagues and esteemed members of the CLAE and the CNSF,

We have been monitoring the drug shortage of anti-seizure medications in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, there have been no critical deficiencies. However, the current shortage of oxcarbazepine tablets produced by Apotex and Jamp Pharma Corporation originally expected to end by summer 2021 has been extended with a potential ending time of **October 29, 2021** for Apo-Oxcarbazepine and **December 30, 2021** for Jamp-Oxcarbazepine. Thus, in the near future, Novartis (Trileptal®) will continue to be the sole source provider of Oxcarbazepine in Canada.

Novartis has been covering the entire Oxcarbazepine market while Apotex and Jamp has been in shortage. The Canadian League Against Epilepsy is currently working with Health Canada's Drug Shortages Unit to determine the impact of Apotex and JAMP's extended shortage on Oxcarbazepine supply. We will provide additional information when available. In the meantime, please consider starting new patients on medications other than oxcarbazepine as it could have an impact on those already taking it.

Please refer to your local Provincial Health Services for further guidance. As a quick reminder some pharmaco-equivalences:

- Carbamazepine PO (i.e. Tegretol) 100mg = Oxcarbazepine PO (i.e. Trileptal) 110 – 150mg.
- Carbamazepine PO (i.e. Tegretol) 100mg = Eslicarbazepine PO (i.e. Aptiom) 130mg
- Oxcarbazepine PO (i.e. Trileptal) 100mg = Eslicarbazepine PO (i.e. Aptiom) 100mg

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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