



Health, Housing & Community Services Department  
Public Health Division  
(510) 981-5300

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH  
Health Officer

## Health Advisory January 29, 2013

### Isoniazid (INH) Shortage

**Please distribute to all providers in your practice**

#### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

There is currently a nationwide shortage of INH. INH is one of the most important drugs to treat tuberculosis (TB) disease and latent TB infection (LTBI). The low inventory is attributed to a shortage of the active ingredient for making INH and shipping delays. Increased access to INH is anticipated by the end of January according to FDA and supplier sources, but there is uncertainty about whether further delays will occur and whether the supply over the next several months will meet the quantity needed to treat the patients diagnosed with TB and LTBI.

#### **ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:**

1. FORECAST your short and long term needs. Quantify and track your INH inventory, working with your pharmacy partners.
2. If your INH supply is limited (3-6 weeks):
  - SELECT LTBI regimens that do not use INH (e.g., rifampin x 4 months) or use lower quantities of INH (e.g., INH x 6 mos). Evaluate contraindications to the alternative regimen such as drug interactions with rifampin.
  - PRIORITIZE INH for LTBI treatment of patient groups that have higher risk for TB disease progression (e.g., HIV-infected, converters, contacts, young children, immune-compromised) and who cannot receive an alternate INH-sparing regimen.
3. If your INH supply is severely restricted or depleted (<3weeks):
  - PRIORITIZE INH use for treatment of active TB disease over treatment of LTBI
  - SELECT alternative, effective regimens for active TB disease that do not include INH, in accordance with national and state treatment guidelines. Expert guidance is encouraged in the selection of alternative regimens.
4. CONSULT with Berkeley public health if selecting an alternative treatment regimen for active TB disease or for other questions, at 510-981-5300.

#### **REFERENCES AND RESOURCES**

- National Shortage of Isoniazid 300 mg Tablets. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 61(50);1029-1029. [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6150a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm6150a4\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6150a4.htm?s_cid=mm6150a4_w)
- FDA Drug Shortage Website: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm050792.htm>
- CDC LTBI Treatment Guidelines: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr4906.pdf> and [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6048a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm6048a3\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6048a3.htm?s_cid=mm6048a3_w)
- American Thoracic Society, Centers for Disease Control & Infectious Diseases Society of America. (2003). Treatment of Tuberculosis. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 52(No. RR-11). <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5211.pdf>

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