

To: All Canadian Pharmacies, Hospitals, Regional Cancer Centres, Oncologists and Gastroenterologists
Re: PURINETHOL® Allocation

Last year we wrote to you regarding a supply issue with **PURINETHOL® (mercaptopurine tablets USP)**. With your cooperation, we successfully managed our Canadian inventory to continue to provide PURINETHOL® to patients who needed it most.

We regret to inform you that our USA-based third party supplier is again facing challenges to their production process of this highly specialized product and we expect our inventory over the coming months to be limited.

We are extremely disappointed that our supply of PURINETHOL® is being compromised by our supplier's production issues. We empathize with the patients that rely on this product and certainly appreciate that a perceived shortage can create undue anxiety.

Additional Inventory

To ensure we continue to make product available for patients that rely on this medication, we are working with Health Canada to secure a temporary supply of Purinethol intended for the US market that will be imported under the lot release provision of the Special Lot Release Program (Lot #A78637A, Expiry 10/2013). This Teva US PURINETHOL® is identical to the Canadian product; therefore the same DIN (Drug Identification Number) is used.

The only change you will see is in packaging. This product is packed in FDA approved plastic bottles of 60 tablets instead of glass bottles of 25 tablets. Additionally, a Teva Canada Patient Information Leaflet in both English and French will accompany the product. As the DIN is consistent with our existing product, reimbursement through Provincial Formularies will still be possible.

Direct Ordering & Shipping

Our aim is to extend existing product supply for as long as possible, designating it for the patients who need it the most. As such, Teva Canada will direct ship PURINETHOL® to the pharmacy market across Canada. (This includes critical care facilities, hospitals and cancer treatment centres.)

**All orders for PURINETHOL® are to be placed through:
Teva Canada Customer Care Centre: TEL 1-800-268-4129 | FAX 1-800-387-4733**

Dealing with Patients

In the meantime, these options may assist you in dealing with your patients:

- If you are a pharmacist, you could contact the prescribing physician to address the supply situation and discuss the management of PURINETHOL® quantities to be dispensed.
- If you are the prescribing physician, an alternative therapy may need to be considered on a patient-by-patient basis.
- You may contact our in-house Medical Affairs group at:

Rachel Greenstein, Medical Affairs Officer
416-291-8888, Ext. 5005
druginfo@tevacanada.com

Bruce Valliant, Director, Pharmacovigilance
416-291-6954
bruce.valliant@tevacanada.com

Going Forward

We continue to work closely with our third party supplier as they resolve their production issues. We are also collaborating with Health Canada to investigate additional supply options. Although the number of manufacturers of PURINETHOL® is very limited (with no active manufacturers in Canada), we have identified an alternate manufacturer, and have initiated the process to qualify this site for Canadian product manufacturing. We do expect this process to take time to complete, so we will continue to update you on the progress.

You have our assurance that we remain committed to rectifying this situation. Our focus is on patient care and ensuring healthcare professionals have the information they need.

We appreciate your continued assistance and patience.

Sincerely,



Barry Fishman
President & CEO