NSW Health

Disruption to supply – hydralazine (Apresoline) 20 mg powder for injection ampoule

SAFETY NOTICE 019/25

Issue date:	20 August 2025
Content reviewed by:	ACI Networks – Anaesthesia Perioperative Care, Emergency Care Institute, Cardiac, Intensive Care NSW, Maternity and Neonatal and Stroke; Australasian Neonatal Medicines Formulary; Health and Social Policy Branch; Medication Safety Expert Advisory Committee; Medication Shortage Assessment and Management Team
Distributed to:	Chief Executives, Directors of Clinical Governance
KEY MESSAGE:	NSW Health facilities are informed of the current disruption to the supply of hydralazine injection, availability of international alternatives, and clinical recommendations for managing this disruption to supply (including safety considerations with the international alternatives and the choice of an alternative antihypertensive agent in the absence of hydralazine injection).
ACTION REQUIRED BY:	Chief Executives, Directors of Clinical Governance
REQUIRED ACTION:	1. Distribute this Safety Notice to all relevant clinicians and clinical departments where hydralazine injections are held, prescribed, and administered, and include this Safety Notice in relevant handovers and safety huddles. 2. Undertake a local risk assessment and incorporate the below recommendations to manage the disruption to supply. Ensure a system is in place to document actions taken in response to this Safety Notice. 3. Report any incidents associated with this disruption to supply into the local incident management system, for example, ims+.
We recommend you also inform:	Directors, Managers and Staff of: • Anaesthesia and Perioperative Departments • Emergency Departments • Cardiology Departments • Intensive Care Units • Maternity and Neonatal Departments • Neurology Departments • Medical Services • Nursing and Midwifery Services • Pharmacy Services Drug and Therapeutics Committees All other relevant clinicians, departments and committees
Website:	https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/sabs/Pages/default.aspx http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/index.html
Review date:	April 2026

Contact: Clinical Excellence Commission
02 9269 5500
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Situation

There is a current disruption to the supply of hydralazine 20 mg powder for injection (Apresoline) due to manufacturing issues until at least 31 March 2026.

International alternatives are currently available through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Special Access Scheme (SAS):

- Hydralazine (Hydrapres) 20 mg powder for injectable solution ampoules from Spain **(English/French labelled)** via Advanz Pharma, which may be ordered via Symbion.
- Hydralazine (Eugia) 20 mg solution for injection vials from Canada via Medsurge and Pro Pharmaceuticals Group (**labelled in English or French**).

Supply of hydralazine (Hydrapres) 20 mg powder for injectable solution will be available under Section 19A the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* from Spain **(Spanish labelled)** via Advanz Pharma in the coming weeks.

NSW Health staff are advised to check the TGA website for updates regarding further changes to supply and the TGA S19A approvals database for updates on potential S19A alternatives.

Background

Hydralazine is a potent arterial vasodilator used primarily for the rapid reduction of blood pressure in acute or severe hypertension. Intravenous hydralazine is commonly used in hypertensive emergencies associated with the following conditions:

- Severe hypertension when oral agents are not feasible or rapid onset is required.
- Pregnancy-related hypertension, including pre-eclampsia and eclampsia.
- Acute hypertension after stroke or other neurological emergencies when blood pressure reduction is indicated.
- Peri-operative hypertension to control blood pressure during or after surgery.
- Neonatal hypertension.

Hydralazine 20 mg injection is listed on the NSW Medicines Formulary without restriction.

Assessment

While the S19A and SAS alternatives are identical in active ingredient and strength to the Australian-registered product, there are differences in formulation, excipients, presentation, storage, and reconstitution requirements. Refer to **Appendix A** for information regarding the differences between the Australian-registered product and S19A and SAS international alternatives.

The Hydrapres SAS/S19A alternatives from Spain require **reconstitution with 1.1 mL** water for injection (WFI). **The volume extracted from the ampoule for administration or further dilution should not exceed 1 mL** (concentration of the reconstituted solution is 20 mg/mL).

- This information will be present on an overlabel for **Spanish-labelled S19A stock**, which will be applied by the drug sponsor (see **Figure 1** below).

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- This information will **not** be present on the **English/French labelled SAS stock** and will require manual over-labelling by Pharmacy Departments.

Figure 1. Carton overlabel for Spanish-labelled S19A Hydrapres (hydralazine hydrochloride 20 mg powder for injectable solution ampoules)

Powder for injection.

Each ampoule contains Hydralazine hydrochloride 20mg.

Other excipients include:

- Mannitol (E-421)
- Hydrochloric acid to adjust pH to 3.5-4.2

For IV administration only.

To reconstitute, add 1.1mL of water for injection. The administered or extracted volume for further dilution should not exceed 1mL.

Store below 30°C. Keep in its original package to protect from light.

ADVANZ PHARMA (Australia), L9, 76 Berry St, North Sydney NSW 2060. Phone 1800 627 680

The SAS alternative from Canada **contains methylparaben and propylparaben as preservatives**. These excipients are associated with an increased risk of hyperbilirubinemia, hypothyroidism, and hypersensitivity reactions in neonates. Their presence should be carefully considered when treating neonates, as well as in pregnant or breastfeeding women (as parabens can cross the placenta and are excreted in breastmilk). Additionally, this product is approved for intravenous injection only and should not be used for intravenous infusion.

In the case of a complete disruption to supply of hydralazine injection within a facility, the choice of alternative antihypertensive agent is dependent on the specific indication for use and individual patient factors.

Recommendations

- Develop a local plan to manage the disruption to the supply of hydralazine injection that includes (but is not limited to):
    - Assessing current stock holdings, historical usage, and ongoing clinical need of hydralazine injection at each facility.
        - Where necessary, review stock levels in clinical areas, including adjustment of minimum/maximum stock on hand levels to assist with managing supply.
    - Stocking only one brand of hydralazine injection at a time (where possible) in clinical areas to minimise the risk of confusion regarding administration requirements.
    - Prioritising the remaining supply of the Australian-registered product for clinical indications where international alternatives or other antihypertensives are not suitable. This includes a review of minimum stock holdings in clinical areas and adjusting stock levels where necessary.
    - Ensuring back orders are in place for the S19A/SAS alternatives with regular wholesalers or suppliers, accounting for lead times, to ensure supply is received as it becomes available.

- Pharmacy Departments should:
    - Implement local inventory management practices to clearly separate the Hydrapres S19A and SAS stock in order to minimise the risk of confusion and ensure accurate dispensing/distribution.
    - Affix an overlabel providing information on the reconstitution differences for the Hydrapres SAS alternative labelled in English/French (similar to **Figure 1**).
- In the absence of hydralazine injection, selection of an alternative antihypertensive agent is dependent on the specific indication for use and individual patient factors. Local decision-making is required by facilities to identify suitable alternatives for each indication or specialty area, and local specialist input should be sought to determine alternative regimens. The following resources can provide guidance on suitable alternatives:
    - Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ) Hypertension in Pregnancy Guideline (2023).
    - Therapeutic Guidelines – Urgent control of elevated blood pressure: Hypertensive emergency.
    - Heart Foundation – Guideline for the diagnosis and management of hypertension in adults (2016).
    - BMJ Best Practice – Hypertensive emergencies.
- Ensure that all clinicians involved in prescribing and administering hydralazine injections are informed of the differences in formulation, reconstitution, and administration requirements for the hydralazine international alternatives prior to its supply to clinical areas.
- When available, clinicians should prioritise the Hydrapres S19A/SAS alternative from Spain for neonates and pregnant or breastfeeding women, as it does not contain **methylparaben and propylparaben preservatives.** Use of the Canadian SAS alternative should be limited to cases where no suitable preservative-free alternative is accessible.

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Appendix A. Comparison of Australian-registered product and S19A/SAS alternatives

	ARTG-listed product **Apresoline**	*International alternative (Spain)* **Hydrapres** ***S19A***	*International alternative (Spain)* **Hydrapres** ***SAS***	*International alternative (Canada)* **Eugia** ***SAS***
Supply arrangement(s)	Australian-registered product	S19A via Advanz Pharma	SAS via Advanz Pharma	SAS via Pro Pharmaceuticals Group and Medsurge
Labelled language	English	**Spanish** over-labelled in English	Dual-labelled in **English and French**	English or French
Active ingredient	Hydralazine hydrochloride 20 mg			
Form	Powder for injection			Clear colourless solution for injection
Excipients	N/A	• Mannitol • Hydrochloric acid (pH adjustment)		• Propylene glycol • Methylparaben (preservative) • Propylparaben (preservative) • Water for injection • Sodium hydroxide • Hydrochloric acid (pH adjustment)
Presentation	Glass ampoule Pack of 5			Glass **vial** Pack of 10
Route of administration	Intravenous injection or infusion	Intravenous injection or infusion* *Note: this product is also labelled for intramuscular use, however this is **not** an approved route of administration for use in Australia		Intravenous injection only
Reconstitution	• **Use 1 mL water for injection (WFI)** • Further dilutions with sodium chloride • Glucose solutions not to be used	• **Use 1.1 mL water for injection (WFI). The volume extracted from the ampoule for administration or further dilution should not exceed 1 mL (concentration of reconstituted solution is 20 mg/mL).** • Glucose solutions not to be used		Reconstitution not required

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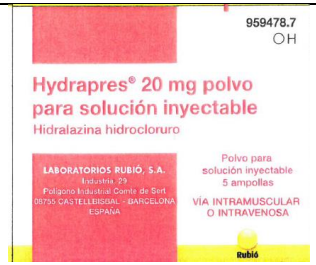
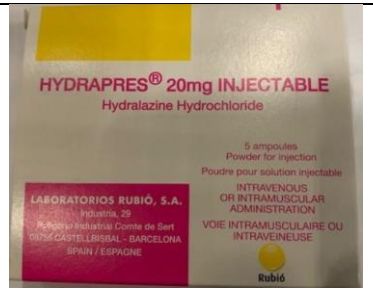
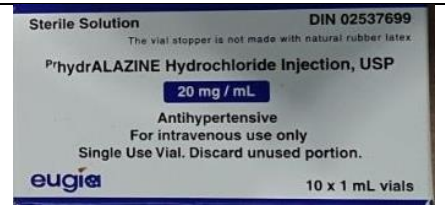
	ARTG-listed product **Apresoline**	*International alternative (Spain)* **Hydrapres** ***S19A***	*International alternative (Spain)* **Hydrapres** ***SAS***	*International alternative (Canada)* **Eugia** ***SAS***
Storage	• Store below 25°C • Protect from light			• Store between 15 to 30°C • Protect from heat and light
Additional notes		S19A stock currently on route to Australia. Estimated date of arrival to be confirmed.	SAS stock currently on route to Australia.	• Pro Pharmaceuticals Group (SAS) – lead time of 7 business days • Medsurge (SAS) – lead time of 15 business days
Product image/artwork		 		

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