

March 28, 2017

Labetalol Injection Shortage, Estimated Release Dates of late-March and early-April

[ASHP](#) and [Drugs.com](#) are reporting a shortage of labetalol injection due to increased demand and manufacturing delays. Specifically, [Akorn](#) has labetalol 5 mg/mL 40 mL vials on back order and the company estimates a release date of late-March 2017. The 20 mL vials are on allocation. [Pfizer](#) has labetalol 5 mg/mL 4 mL Carpuject syringes on back order and the company estimates a release date of early-March 2017. The 20 mL and 40 mL vials are on back order and the company estimates a release date of early-March 2017 for the 20 mL vials and early-April 2017 for the 40 mL vials.

This will likely impact the care of pregnant women and postpartum women with severe hypertension, as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends intravenous (IV) labetalol as a first-line medication for the management of acute-onset, severe hypertension in these populations. However, immediate release oral nifedipine also may be considered as a first-line therapy, particularly when IV access is not available. If immediate released oral nifedipine is not available, a 200-mg dose of labetalol can be administered orally and repeated in 30 minutes if appropriate improvement is not observed (for more information see [Emergent Therapy for Acute-Onset, Severe Hypertension During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period](#)).