

# NWT Clinical Practice Information Notice

**UPON RECEIPT: (1) PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW  
(2) FILE THIS NOTICE IN SECTION C, CLINICAL PRACTICE INFORMATION BINDER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

**The following clinical practice has been approved for use in the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services system, and has been distributed to:**

Hospitals     
  Community Health Centers     
  Public Health Units     
  Doctors' Offices     
  Social Services Offices     
  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The information contained in this document is a Departmental:

Policy     
  Standard     
  Protocol     
  Procedure     
  Guidelines

**Title: NWT Health Centre Formulary Update**

**Effective Date: June 1, 2009**

**Statement of approved clinical practice:**


The Minister of Health and Social Services, upon the recommendation of the NWT Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, approves the following update to the 2008 Health Centre Formulary. Please insert the following attachment into your copy of the 2008 NWT Health Centre Formulary.

Formulary updates are published on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The next complete formulary will be published on December 1, 2010. At that time, all updates will be incorporated into the new formulary and existing formularies and updates shall be discarded.

**Attachments:**

- NWT Health Centre Formulary Update Effective June 1, 2009

An electronic copy of this notice is also available on the Department of Health and Social Services Public Website at: <http://hlthss.gov.nt.ca> Once you have accessed the site, click on "Manuals". The Clinical Practice Information Notice can be found in the *NWT Clinical Practice Information* manual.

This clinical practice is approved.  \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Minister      
 Chief Medical Officer of Health      
 Director, Child & Family Services      
 Director, Adoptions

# Northwest Territories Health Centre Formulary Update

Addendum to 2008 Edition  
Effective Date: June 1, 2009

This update will be incorporated into the next  
Health Centre Formulary scheduled for publication on  
December 1, 2010.

## Updates

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### New Schedule for Updates

The Health Centre Formulary will now have updates published on June 1 and December 1 of each year. A new formulary will be published every second year on December 1 of even years (next on December 1, 2010). At that time, all updates will be incorporated into the new formulary and existing formularies and updates shall be discarded.

### Removal of Oral Sodium Phosphates (Oral Fleet)

Oral Sodium Phosphate, 45 mL (Oral Fleet) was recalled by the manufacturer over labeling concerns and misuse leading to electrolyte imbalance and renal failure in some patients. This product is no longer available from the manufacturer and therefore is removed from the formulary and from clinical practice. Magnesium citrate (Citro-Mag) or polyethylene glycol & electrolyte solution (Golytely) may be considered as an alternate for bowel irrigation. Magnesium citrate solution is available by prescription and is covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) for eligible individuals.

### Dangerous Abbreviations

To enhance patient safety the Institute of Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has produced a list of dangerous abbreviations that should not be used in patient documentation. This includes order sheets, prescriptions, the medication administration record (MAR) and patient charts. The list is included on page 4 of this update.

## Additions to Formulary

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The following pharmaceutical agents are added:

dermatological base (*Glaxal Base, Taro Base*)

Please see complete information on page 3 of this update.

## Removals from Formulary

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The following pharmaceutical agents are removed:

sodium phosphate oral solution (*Oral Fleet*) 45 mL

Please remove the above pharmaceutical agent from health centre pharmacies.

Drug/Form	Category	Brand Names
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Approved Additions to the 2008 NWT Health Centre Formulary

## Dermatologicals

dermatological base

tube: 50 g

A ▲

*Glaxal Base, Taro Base*

Notes

- Compounding of more than one topical pharmaceutical agent with dermatological base may only be done upon the advice of a physician, NP, or approved clinical practice guideline.

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### Approval of Formulary Update

This formulary update has been approved for use by the Minister of Health and Social Services Pursuant to the Hospital and Health Care Facility Standards Regulations R-036-2005 43(2).

This formulary is placed in effect by *Clinical Practice Information Notice 88*, June 1, 2009.

The pharmaceutical agents listed for use and the classifications in this formulary update supersede any pharmaceutical agent or classifications listed in any previous formularies or other clinical guidelines currently in use in all Health and Social Services Authorities (HSSAs) in the Northwest Territories.

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- END OF FORMULARY UPDATES -

Category A: RN initiated B: Physician/NP Initiated C: RN 1 course D: RN 1 dose

*See page 10 of Formulary for further explanation*

▲ must stock item

# Do Not Use

## Dangerous Abbreviations, Symbols and Dose Designations

The abbreviations, symbols, and dose designations found in this table have been reported as being frequently misinterpreted and involved in harmful medication errors. They should NEVER be used when communicating medication information.

Abbreviation	Intended Meaning	Problem	Correction
<b>U</b>	unit	Mistaken for "0" (zero), "4" (four), or cc.	Use "unit".
<b>IU</b>	international unit	Mistaken for "IV" (intravenous) or "10" (ten).	Use "unit".
<b>Abbreviations for drug names</b>		Misinterpreted because of similar abbreviations for multiple drugs; e.g., MS, MSO <sub>4</sub> (morphine sulphate), MgSO <sub>4</sub> (magnesium sulphate) may be confused for one another.	Do not abbreviate drug names.
<b>QD QOD</b>	Every day Every other day	QD and QOD have been mistaken for each other, or as 'qid'. The Q has also been misinterpreted as "2" (two).	Use "daily" and "every other day".
<b>OD</b>	Every day	Mistaken for "right eye" (OD = oculus dexter).	Use "daily".
<b>OS, OD, OU</b>	Left eye, right eye, both eyes	May be confused with one another.	Use "left eye", "right eye" or "both eyes".
<b>D/C</b>	Discharge	Interpreted as "discontinue whatever medications follow" (typically discharge medications).	Use "discharge".
<b>cc</b>	cubic centimetre	Mistaken for "u" (units).	Use "mL" or "millilitre".
<b>µg</b>	microgram	Mistaken for "mg" (milligram) resulting in one thousand-fold overdose.	Use "mcg".
Symbol	Intended Meaning	Potential Problem	Correction
<b>@</b>	at	Mistaken for "2" (two) or "5" (five).	Use "at".
<b>&gt; &lt;</b>	Greater than Less than	Mistaken for "7" (seven) or the letter "L". Confused with each other.	Use "greater than"/"more than" or "less than"/"lower than".
Dose Designation	Intended Meaning	Potential Problem	Correction
<b>Trailing zero</b>	ℵ.0 mg	Decimal point is overlooked resulting in 10-fold dose error.	Never use a zero by itself after a decimal point. Use "ℵ mg".
<b>Lack of leading zero</b>	.ℵ mg	Decimal point is overlooked resulting in 10-fold dose error.	Always use a zero before a decimal point. Use "0.ℵ mg".

Adapted from ISMP's List of *Error-Prone Abbreviations, Symbols, and Dose Designations 2006*

Report actual and potential medication errors to ISMP Canada via the web at [https://www.ismp-canada.org/err\\_report.htm](https://www.ismp-canada.org/err_report.htm) or by calling 1-866-54-ISMPC. ISMP Canada guarantees confidentiality of information received and respects the reporter's wishes as to the level of detail included in publications.

