

Nova Scotia Antidote Program

Quarterly Report: July 1st- Sept 30th 2015

The Nova Scotia Antidote Kit program is pleased to present another Quarterly Report, which provides information on changes and trends in antidote therapy and reports ongoing Provincial Antidote usage.

Antidote usage July 1 st –Sept 30 th 2015						
Western Zone 1	Northern Zone 2	Eastern Zone 3	Central Zone 4	IWK	Quarterly Total	*Total to date
6	6	3	20	0	35	*606

Western Zone: Former DHA1, DHA2, DHA3 Northern Zone: DHA4, DHA5, DHA6 Eastern Zone: DHA7, DHA8 Central Zone: DHA9 Health *Total to date includes antidotes used in DHA9 & IWK since 2006

Digifab

Paladin, the manufacturer of Digifab will no longer refund this drug. It is \$810.10 per vial with both the Full and Modified kits containing 6 vials at a total cost of \$4860.60. The provincial Advisory Committee for the Antidote Kit program met recently and it was decided that a review of past usage be done. Since October 2008, we are aware of 34 cases of DigiFab use. 11 of these times, PC was **not** consulted and therefore no patient information, symptoms, and outcomes were available. Of the remaining 23 patients, 21 exhibited chronic digoxin toxicity, requiring 1-6 vials of DigiFab. The other 2 were acute on chronic symptomatic ingestions, received 18 and 19 vials respectively, and improved following administration. (Remember that over kits in your zones can be used as a backup supply) Based on these cases, and based on current consensus guidelines, we cannot recommend any less than 6 vials of DigiFab in each kit. We will continue to monitor this.

Stickers for Refrigerators

The Antidote Kit program has previously circulated a 127 x 215 mm sticker for the outside of the antidote kits. It has been decided that another sticker be circulated that is to be placed on the outside of the refrigerator. This sticker will list the 2 antidotes that must be refrigerated. Hopefully this will help in locating these antidotes quickly. These stickers will be mailed to your regional pharmacy department.

If you require replacement stickers for your kits please send a request to the Antidote Kit Coordinator.

Important

The Antidote Kit Program advises that **all** ED perform an annual survey of ward stock antidotes. The ward stock antidotes with the **minimum** stocking numbers are:

Acetylcysteine - 12 vials, Flumazenil - 5 vials, Regular insulin (100 units/mL) - 2 vials, and Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% (50 mEq/50mL) - 20 syringes.

Contact Ruth Bona RN CSPI at ruth.bona@iwk.nshealth.ca or 902-470-3857 with any inquiries.