50% DEXTROSE INTRAVENOUS INJECTION

**Shortage status:**
National drug shortage affected UTMB. Limited supply is available.

**Product Affected:**
All presentation of Intravenous formulation of 50% Dextrose (aka D50).

**Reason for shortage:**
The manufacturers provide no specific reasons for delays, unknown release date.

**Implications for Providers/Nursing:**
To conserve IV 50% dextrose (D50) for patients with the most critical needs (i.e. code carts) providers must prescribe only when an alternative medication is contraindicated, cannot be used, or is not effective.

Please follow the *Hypoglycemia protocol* with alternative agents as below:

- For patients who are awake and able to swallow, treat hypoglycemia with PO juice, soda or non-fat milk (for ESRD patients, use cranberry juice or soda, and avoid citric juices and milk)
- For patients who cannot swallow, have altered mentation, or neurological deficits:
  - *Glucagon 1mg IV* (preferred) or IM (if patient does not have IV access)
  - *Intravenous 10% Dextrose (D10W) in 250 mL* (equivalent to 50% Dextrose, 50mL)
- Blood glucose should be checked Q15 minutes until it is above 100; if the patient fasting or NPO, providers may order IV fluids with dextrose for maintenance (D5W or D10W).

**Implications for Pharmacy:**
- Pharmacy is centralizing distribution of intravenous 50% Dextrose by removing vials from all Pyxis machines with no use within the last 30 days.
- In those patient care areas in which there has been usage within the last 30 days, intravenous 50% Dextrose will be replaced with Intravenous 10% Dextrose (D10W) 250 mg
- Pharmacy will continue to load code carts with intravenous 50% dextrose syringes/vials

For more information on drug shortages, please visit: [https://www.utmb.edu/rxhome/](https://www.utmb.edu/rxhome/)