



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

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GMHA: Update on the Availability of Butorphanol

Previously Known as Stadol

(Friday, February 2, 2024; Tamuning, Guam) The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) is still without access to Butorphanol, a narcotic pain medication often used during labor to alleviate pain. Formerly known as Stadol, the medication is also used as a part of the anesthesia for surgery and cardiac procedures. GMHA has a supply of 2nd-line medications to use while it awaits back-ordered shipments of Butorphanol to arrive.

“GMHA is thankful for Dr. Tom Shieh’s offer to donate Butorphanol medication that he said he was able to procure from a vendor in Honolulu. Unfortunately, it never materialized” said Lillian Perez-Posadas, GMHA Hospital Administrator, “Dr. Shieh graciously provided the contact details for the vendor in Hawaii. When our pharmacist contacted the vendor, it turned out that Dr. Shieh was unable to secure the medication.”

The reason for the depletion of Butorphanol is due to manufacturing delays. The lack of medication is not exclusive to Guam. There is currently a nationwide shortage of Butorphanol. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) anticipated that the stock of Butorphanol will be replenished in March or April. However, the ASHP recently announced further manufacturing delays that will result in another delay. Now, Butorphanol is not expected to be available until August 2024.

In the interim, GMHA has other pain relief options for mothers in labor, including epidurals, which are the most commonly used method for pain relief during labor. Over 60% of women take advantage of an epidural to relieve the pain of childbirth.

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(Sources: <https://www.drugs.com/pro/stadol.html>, <https://www.ashp.org/drug-shortages/current-shortages/drug-shortage-detail.aspx?id=906#:~:text=Estimated%20Resupply%20Dates,are%20available%20in%20limited%20supply,> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3930223/>, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/epidural-rates-by-country>)

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