



## **PUBLIC ADVISORY**

### **Eastern Health Implements Plan for Patients Affected by National Tamoxifen Drug Shortage**

**October 24, 2019 – St. John's, NL:** Eastern Health has developed guidelines to assist patients during the Canada-wide Tamoxifen drug shortage.

Health Canada has identified a shortage of the oral drug Tamoxifen, an anti-estrogen drug most commonly given as part of hormonal therapy. It is used mainly to treat breast cancer; however, it is also used to treat other conditions.

While the estimated time for the supply to be back to normal is not currently known, Health Canada is actively working with the companies involved to increase production of Tamoxifen within Canada by January 2020.

In addition, the Cancer Care Program has been working with its oncologists, the Pharmacists' Association of NL, the Department of Health and Community Services and various programs within Eastern Health and has developed a contingency plan to address the shortage. The program is also contacting patients who have been prescribed Tamoxifen via registered mail.

The Cancer Care team at Eastern Health has developed a plan for those patients unable to renew their prescription. If you have any concerns about refilling your prescription, please:

- Call your local pharmacy to see if the pharmacist can get the drug from another pharmacy in the area.
- If your pharmacy is not able to obtain Tamoxifen, call the Cancer Care Centre at 1-844-923-1336 and health-care staff will assist you with the next steps. The telephone line is available between Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional information about the shortage is available on the Cancer Care Program website at [www.cancercare.easternhealth.ca/tamoxifen](http://www.cancercare.easternhealth.ca/tamoxifen).

Patients remain our top priority during this drug shortage and we will take all necessary measures to ensure they continue to receive high quality care.

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**Media Contact:**

Allison Barter  
A/ Media Relations Manager  
Eastern Health  
T: (709) 777.1412  
[Allison.Barter@easternhealth.ca](mailto:Allison.Barter@easternhealth.ca)

