

June 6, 2023



Cancer Center Patients,

There are several drug shortages that are beginning to impact our area. In February, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a national shortage of carboplatin and cisplatin, drugs used to treat a variety of cancers. This shortage is expected to last several months and possibly longer. Most recently a shortage of 5FU was announced. We are working diligently to minimize the impact of these nationwide shortages on our community.

Since the notification, SVMC has been working with drug manufacturers to secure as much supply of these drugs as possible. Over the last several weeks, the shortage has reached a critical level, which will require providers to look at alternative therapies and treatments.

The care of patients remains our top priority. Please know that we are taking this shortage seriously and working to the best of our ability and resources to minimize the impact on you and your loved ones. We understand the importance of timely care, provided by trained staff, according to proven protocols; deviations due to drug shortages are not by choice, but by necessity.

Drug shortages can occur for many reasons, including manufacturing and quality problems, delays, increased demand and discontinuations. With hospitals being impacted nationwide, SVMC is unable to transfer the care of its patients to an alternate facility.

Carboplatin is commonly used to treat a multitude of solid tumors including ovarian, lung, and head and neck cancers. Cisplatin is used for treatment of numerous cancers including bladder, head and neck, lung, ovarian and testicular cancers. These drugs remain the gold standard for many types of cancer. Providers and staff are reviewing potential alternative combination therapies and each patient's specific clinical scenario to modify and transition regimens when possible.

The drug shortages, unfortunately, could create delays in receiving chemotherapy treatment for some patients. Patients who have questions should contact their medical provider directly.

Sincerely,

Cancer Treatment Center