



SCAU

Bulletin

Products Affected - Description

Sodium Bicarbonate tablets, Rugby (Watson Laboratories, URL)

Reason for the Shortage

A single manufacturer (Concord) produces sodium bicarbonate tablets. Concord changed manufacturing facilities and was waiting for FDA approval of its manufacturing site.^{1,2}

Estimated Resupply Dates

Rugby (Watson Laboratories) has the 325 mg and 650 mg tablets available.¹

URL has the 650 mg tablets (NDC 00677-0131-10) readily available.²

Implications for Patient Care

Sodium bicarbonate is used as an alkalinizing agent.³

Safety

Ensure patients measure baking soda accurately and dilute the product with water.

Alternative Agents & Management

There are no alternative suppliers of sodium bicarbonate tablets. Sodium bicarbonate powder (baking soda) dissolved in at least one-half cup of water may be an alternative for some patients, depending on their current tablet dosing regimen. One half teaspoon of baking soda contains 616 mg sodium, or 26.8 mEq sodium.⁴ A 650 mg sodium bicarbonate tablet contains 7.6 mEq sodium.³ The Table provides additional details about approximate equivalent doses.

Table. Approximate Equivalent Dose of Sodium Bicarbonate Powder and Tablets

Sodium Bicarbonate Tablet	Sodium Bicarbonate Powder (Baking Soda)
650 mg tablet (7.6 mEq sodium)	1/8 teaspoon baking soda (6.7 mEq sodium)

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Related Shortages

- Citrate/Phosphate/Dextrose— No Longer Available
- Ethacrynate Sodium Powder for Injection— Resolved
- Ethacrynic Acid Tablets— Resolved
- Phosphorous Supplements Oral— Resolved

1/2 teaspoon ≈ 650 TID

References

1. Rugby (personal communications). June 26, July 20 and 30, August 7 and 13, September 17, October 23, and November 7 and 28, 2007; January 2 and 28, March 4, April 8, May 19, June 30, and August 5, 2008.
2. URL (personal communications). June 26, July 20 and 30, August 9 and 13, September 17, October 23, and November 7 and November 28, 2007; January 2 and 28, April 8, May 19, June 30, and