Alert: Halothane to become progressively unavailable

Halothane will become less available as manufacturers are slowly stopping production.

What you should do:

- Inform your hospital pharmacy so that they can stockpile and also begin budgeting for the transition to isoflurane or preferably sevoflurane which, unlike isoflurane, is better suited for children.
- Inform your hospital administration so that transition to isoflurane or sevoflurane is included in the budget.
- Contact your National Anesthesia Society to advise them of the situation and seek their advice.
- Isoflurane is not suitable for inhalation induction in children! Its use should only follow after induction with ketamine or propofol.
- In the transition to the appropriate vaporizers, it is possible to use isoflurane in a halothane vaporizer but there are risks.
- You must check with the manufacturer of your halothane vaporizers to see if they can be used safely during the transition with isoflurane, and to make sure that no components of the vaporizer interact adversely with isoflurane.

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References

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