

## THYROID PRODUCTS SHORTAGE

There is a nationwide shortage of products including porcine-derived desiccated thyroid and liotrix. These medications do not have U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, and we expect that the FDA will eventually require these products to be approved and may remove any remaining unapproved products from the market. Supplies of these products are now limited, because of this uncertainty. Below is a list of the thyroid medication and their current status.

Drug Strength	Liotrix	Desiccated Thyroid
¼ grain	Unavailable	Unavailable
½ grain	Unavailable	Unavailable
1 grain	Unavailable	Unavailable
1 ½ grain	Not applicable	Unavailable
2 grain	Unavailable	Unavailable
3 grain	Unavailable	Unavailable
4 and 5 grain	Not applicable	Unavailable

When prescribing thyroid therapy consider using levothyroxine. The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists recommends levothyroxine over desiccated thyroid, liotrix, combination thyroid hormone, or triiodothyronine for the treatment of hypothyroidism.

Note: Thyroid tablets are small and not scored. Splitting tablets may lead to variable doses and results.

Below is an equivalent dosing chart between natural thyroid products, liotrix and levothyroxine that you may use as a reference to transition patients to levothyroxine. Doses must be individualized based on clinical response and laboratory monitoring, the chart below is for reference, individual patient dosing may vary.

	Armour Thyroid (Desiccated, Natural Thyroid)	Liotrix Tablets USP (Thyrolar) (synthetic T3 and T4 mix)	Levoxi, Levotroid, Synthroid (levothyroxine, T4)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	1/4 grain (15 mg)	1/4 grain (15 mg)	25 mCg (0.025 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	1/2 grain (30 mg)	1/2 grain (30 mg)	50 mCg (0.05 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	1 grain (60 mg)	1 grain (60 mg)	100 mCg (0.1 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	1-1/2 grains (90 mg)	Not applicable	150 mCg (0.15 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	2 grains (120 mg)	2 grains (120 mg)	200 mCg (0.2 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	3 grains (180 mg)	3 grains (180 mg)	300 mCg (0.3 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	4 grains (240 mg)	4 grains (240 mg)	400 mCg (0.4 mg)
Approximate Dose Equivalent	5 grains (300 mg)	5 grains (300 mg)	500 mCg (0.5 mg)

Source: [http://www.collegenpharmacy.com/thyroid/2008\\_Thyroid\\_Conversion\\_Chart.pdf](http://www.collegenpharmacy.com/thyroid/2008_Thyroid_Conversion_Chart.pdf)

Please be aware that your patients or Medco may contact you to discuss this situation.

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1. AACE Guidelines for treatment of hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism. Endocrine Practice 2002;8:457-69.  
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