

2025 Cannula (Supply issue)

Permission to print:	Yes
Category	cannula
Category 2	Communication
Severity	Good Catch Near Miss
Description:	<p>For some time our unit and other units in our region and i believe the world, have been facing bypass cannula shortages. The most recent shortage is for venous cannula - 2-stage, 3-stage as well as right angle. There are also shortages in some hand held coronary ostia cardioplegia cannula. Other companies have been approached and are able to offer limited stock with ETAs varying - some being several weeks away. Stock on bac k order still trickling in slowly.</p>
GOOD CATCH - what went well	<p>Multidisciplinary catch ups (surgeons, nurses, anesthetists) to discuss supply issues and reduced access to stock was helpful and ensured we had support from the team.</p> <p>Escalation of this issue saw the forming of a central stores hub with regular, accurate stock take of cannula across the nation - transparency and allocation of cannula to units with the most pressing need.</p> <p>Any new stock entering the country to be allocated by the central store until normal stock levels are achieved. Another thing that was done well was the identification in our unit of three re-useable ROSS atrial basket tips that have a 3 hour sterilisation turnaround (photo attached) and this has added a buffer for certain cases.</p>
What could we do better	<p>The whole picture needs to be evaluated at a high level perhaps even by governments - we need resilience back in the system. Ideally multiple companies would offer portfolios of cannula, as was the case several years ago. Some time ago regulatory bodies such as TGA, FDA, Medsafe changed some processes that led to the financial cost and amount of paperwork to be seen as prohibitive by some companies and whole portfolios of products were dropped including cannula ranges - leading to less options. A robust market and supply is desirable.</p>
Preventive actions	<p>Any new stock entering the country to be allocated by the central store until normal stock levels are achieved. Centralised allocation of cannula to units with the most pressing need.</p>
Type of incident:	Equipment
Manufacturer advise	Yes
Discussed with team:	Yes
Hospital incident filed	Yes
Ext Authority Advised	No
Commentary	<p>This report to PIRS is somewhat unusual where this cannula supply issue appears to be global and potentially impacting practice. PIRS is happy to receive and publish workarounds or solutions that may benefit centres. PIRS2 Eds</p>

