

## Physostigmine Shortage

There has been an ongoing shortage of physostigmine expected to last until mid-2022. One lot of physostigmine has had its shelf life extended by the FDA so far.

### Guidance for hospitals

- Use of physostigmine is rare in Maryland (<10 uses within the last year reported to MPC)
- Patients with antimuscarinic (anticholinergic) effects **are effectively managed** with benzodiazepines alone
  - No difference in disposition/outcomes with use of physostigmine but physostigmine may resolve delirium faster
- **Reserve remaining physostigmine** for the following patients who meet *all* criteria:
  - Clear antimuscarinic poisoning (ex. delirium, tachycardia, mydriasis, decreased bowel sounds, dry mucous membranes, etc.)
  - Benzodiazepine refractory
  - Prevention of intubation
- **Consult the poison center if considering using physostigmine 800-222-1222**