



October 18, 2019

Robert S.D. Higgins, M.D.  
President  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
20 F Street NW, Suite 310 C  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Higgins:

Thank you for your letter of September 17, on behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons regarding the heparin shortage. We appreciate your longstanding interest in this issue. We understand the significance of heparin to patient care and are committed to solutions that support you and your patients.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) has added heparin sodium and sodium chloride 0.9 percent injection to FDA's Drug Shortages website and is working to address this critical need for U.S. patients. The latest information about the heparin shortage, including product availability and contact information for heparin drug product manufacturers is available on our Drug Shortages website<sup>1</sup>.

FDA is actively engaging with manufacturers of heparin drug products regarding their current supply, as well as the disruption to the U.S. market, including any future disruptions that may occur due to the outbreak of swine fever in China. Most manufacturers report an increased demand; however, they continue to supply their traditional market shares of heparin drug products. The Agency is monitoring the situation closely and will update the Drug Shortages website as new information becomes available.

Thank you again for your letter regarding the heparin shortage and its impacts on patients. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact FDA's Drug Shortage Staff at [drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp\\_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Heparin%20Sodium%20and%20Sodium%20Chloride%200.9per%20Injection&st=c](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/dsp_ActiveIngredientDetails.cfm?AI=Heparin%20Sodium%20and%20Sodium%20Chloride%200.9per%20Injection&st=c)