

# Armour Thyroid® Shortage is Affecting your Patients. Partners in Care Can Help.

Armour Thyroid®'s manufacturer, Forest, has been plagued by unexplained product shortages and back orders. In 2009, they reformulated the product to improve dissolution. While Armour Thyroid® was being reformulated, availability problems forced some patients to switch to the similar natural thyroid drugs Nature-Throid™ and Westhroid™. When the reformulated Armour Thyroid® came back on the market, many patients complained that the reformulated product was not working as well as before, and some patients switched to Nature-Throid™ and Westhroid™ again. Currently, there is a nationwide shortage of Armour Thyroid®, and Forest has not indicated any date when the product will be back on the market.

Nature-Throid™ and Westhroid™, distributed by RLC Labs and until recently, manufactured by TimeCap Labs, are also unavailable.

Many patients have tried other types of thyroid hormones, such as levothyroxine and liothyronine, and have found that Desiccated Natural Thyroid is the only form that works adequately for them, reporting that they simply do not feel as well when they take levothyroxine alone or with liothyronine.

The theory behind the use of synthetic T4 alone (levothyroxine) is that the thyroid gland converts T4 to T3.

However, as the thyroid gland of a hypothyroid person is already malfunctioning, its ability to convert T4 to T3 may be hampered as well. T3 (liothyronine) is commercially available only as an immediate acting preparation, which often causes undesirable side effects including palpitations.

**Currently, Desiccated Natural Thyroid - Thyroid USP (porcine) - is available only through compounding pharmacies.**

The specifications for Thyroid USP (porcine) require that each grain contains levothyroxine (T4) 34.2-41.8 mcg and liothyronine (T3) 8.1-9.9 mcg. This produces a T4:T3 ratio of 4.22:1 to meet the stringent standards for a U.S. Pharmacopeia monograph, with a permissible variance of ± 10%.

**Our compounding pharmacy uses Thyroid USP that is shown by analysis to meet the same potency standards as that which is used to manufacture commercial products that are currently on backorder.**

**Commercially available tablets contain fillers and excipients that may not be tolerated by all patients. When we compound customized dosages, we have the ability to omit any problem-causing inactive ingredients and substitute non-reactive fillers. We welcome your questions and the opportunity to help your patients.**

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## Conversion Guide

Nature-Throid™ Westhroid™ * (Desiccated Natural Thyroid)	Armour Thyroid® (Desiccated Natural Thyroid)	Thyroid USP (Porcine) (Desiccated Natural Thyroid)
¼ grain = 16.25 mg Thyroid USP	¼ grain = 15 mg Thyroid USP	<p><b>Compounded preparation.</b></p> <p><b>Dose can be compounded to contain the same amount of Desiccated Natural Thyroid that the patient had received previously,</b> or can be customized for patients who require intermediate strengths to eliminate the need to split tablets or take multiple tablets.</p>
½ grain = 32.5 mg Thyroid USP	½ grain = 30 mg Thyroid USP	
1 grain = 65 mg Thyroid USP	1 grain = 60 mg Thyroid USP	
2 grain = 130 mg Thyroid USP	2 grain = 120 mg Thyroid USP	
3 grain = 195 mg Thyroid USP	3 grain = 180 mg Thyroid USP	

**This is how we can help to solve this problem.**

\* Westhroid is not available in 1/4 grain and 3 grain.

**Contact us to continue your patients' therapy using the same form of thyroid and doses on which they have been stabilized.**



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