There is a nation-wide shortage of n-acetylcysteine solution (aka NAC or Mucomyst). If not depleted at the time you are receiving this message, then we expect SJH will be completely out of inventory by the end of the week. A portion of inventory has been sequestered for the treatment of acetaminophen overdose. The Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee discussed that in adequately powered, randomized placebo controlled trials, NAC has not been shown to prevent radiocontrast induced nephropathy. However, the practice of administering it has continued due to the perception that it is not harmful and not costly. Circulation. 2011;124:1250-1259.

Based upon this information the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee made the following decisions, effective immediately:

1. Oral N-acetylcysteine is NON-formulary for the prevention of radio-contrast induced nephropathy; it will be added to the Restricted Medication List & eventually removed from all pre-printed order forms.
2. The Pharmacist will automatically discontinue any oral n-acetylcysteine or IV Acetadote order that is not indicated for acetaminophen overdose or fulminant hepatic failure (ordered by GI specialist only).
3. Use of Acetadote for contrast induced nephropathy is not evidence-based and has previously been deemed nonformulary by the P&T Committee.