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Nebraska Still Without Drug for Executions

(AP) - Nebraska still has no means to carry out an execution because state officials have not replaced their supply of one of three drugs needed for lethal injection.

The state's batch of sodium thiopental expired last year, and prison officials said Tuesday that they haven't yet restored it. Sodium thiopental renders inmate unconscious.

The Swiss company that made the drug says it was sold to Nebraska without authorization after being stolen by a broker in India. Nebraska's execution protocol specifically mentions the drug, which is no longer produced domestically.

The drug was discussed during Nebraska Supreme Court oral arguments for former cult leader Michael W. Ryan. Ryan was sentenced to death in 1985 after being convicted of first-degree murder of one of his followers.

Associated Press