Cover Letter: Distribution Of Additional Risk Minimisation Materials for Methotrexate

February 2022

Recommendations to avoid potentially fatal dosing errors when using methotrexate for inflammatory diseases

Dear Healthcare Professional,

You will have previously received communication in November 2019 regarding recommendations to avoid potentially fatal dosing errors when using methotrexate for inflammatory diseases and the further measures needed to prevent dosing errors.

Recap of the safety concern:

Methotrexate is authorised in the EU for two different groups of indications, each of them with a different dosing schedule:

- For the treatment of cancer in which frequency depends on the regimen and can require daily administration of methotrexate.
- For the treatment of inflammatory diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and Crohn's disease, which require once-weekly use.

Dosing errors with serious consequences, including fatalities, have been reported when methotrexate intended for once-weekly use in inflammatory diseases was taken daily.

Despite measures already taken to prevent dosing errors, serious, sometimes fatal, cases continue to be reported, in which patients being treated for inflammatory diseases have taken methotrexate daily instead of once weekly. A safety review performed at EU level found that these errors can occur at all stages of the medication process.

Therefore, further measures to prevent dosing errors are being introduced, including prominent warnings on outer and inner packaging and updates to the Summary of Product Characteristics and package leaflet.

For oral formulations, there will be educational materials for healthcare professionals and a patient card will be provided with each package. In addition, tablets will only be available in blister packs.

To assist with the prevention of dosing errors, educational materials for healthcare professionals are being introduced. Please find enclosed a checklist that contains information to minimise the risk of medication error when prescribing methotrexate for inflammatory diseases.

A patient alert card will be added to the outer package of methotrexate tablets. Until the new packs of methotrexate tablets are available these patient alert cards will be distributed by pharmacies. Patients will be advised to carry the alert card with them at all times and to show the patient alert card to any healthcare professional not familiar with their methotrexate treatment.

These educational materials are being provided jointly by the below listed Marketing Authorisation Holders (MAHs) **and have been approved by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)**.

Amdipharm Limited / Suite 17 / Northwood House / Northwood Avenue / Santry / Dublin 9 / Ireland
T: +353 (0) 1 697 1640 / F: +353 (0) 1 697 1641 / E: enquiries@advanzpharma.com
www.advanzpharma.com,Company No: 364596
Registration Office: 3 Burlington Road / Dublin 4 / Ireland

Further supplies of the checklist and patient card are available from the www.hpra.ie, https://www.medicines.ie/ and www.orionproductsafety.com website.

You can also request printed and/or electronic copies of the materials via the medical information teams of these MAHs via the contact details provided below:

Marketing Authorisation Holder	Medicinal Product Full Name	Marketing Authorisation Number	Email contact	Telephone number
Amdipharm Limited, Ireland	Methotrexate 2.5 mg Tablets	PA1142/030/001	medicalinformation@advanzpharma.com	+352 1800 851 119
Orion Corporation	Methotrexate 2.5mg Tablets Methotrexate 10mg Tablets Methotrexate Orion 2.5mg Tablets Methotrexate Orion 10mg Tablets	PA 1327/009/001 PA 1327/009/002 PA 1327/019/001 PA 1327/019/002	ie.medicalinformation@orionpharma.com	+44 1635 520 300
Accord Healthcare Ireland Ltd.	Methotrexate 2.5 mg Tablets Methotrexate 10 mg Tablets	PA 2315/062/001 PA 2315/062/002	medinfo@accord-healthcare.com or by completing the online form at www.accord-healthcare.ie/drug-reaction-report	+44 1271 385 257

Suspected adverse reactions and any medication error which results in patient harm should be reported to the HPRA. When reporting, please provide as much information as possible. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to:

HPRA Pharmacovigilance
Website: www.hpra.ie

Suspected adverse drug reactions may also be reported to the Medical Information service teams via the contact details provided above.

Please contact the Medical Information service teams of any of these organisations, should you have any questions on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nowel Redder, Associate Director Pharmacovigilance and Medical Affair – EU QPPV