



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

From The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
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For Action: Assistant Director Pharmacy and Medicines Management
HSC Board & BSO
Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management of HSC Trusts
Regional Quality Improvement Authority

Our Ref: PHC/10/11

Date: 18 March 2011

DRUG ALERT

MEDICINES DEFECT SUPPLY UPDATE

Dear Healthcare Professional

Novartis

Lucentis 10mg/ml, 1x0.23ml (Ranibizumab)

EU /1/06/374/001

In February 2011, Novartis distributed a letter informing healthcare professionals of a potential problem with blocked Microlance 3 Becton-Dickinson injection needles provided with some batches of administration packs of Lucentis. We have been informed that Lucentis administration packs incorporating unaffected injection needles are now available and are being supplied.

In the original communication, Novartis recommended that the needles contained in affected Lucentis administration packs (batches S0042, S0042B, S0044, S0045, S0045A, S0046, S0047, S0048, S0048A, S0050, S0050A, S0051 and S0052) should not be used due to the possibility of blockage. Novartis advised substitution of needles from an alternative source when administering Lucentis from affected batches.

In order to avoid possible stock disruption, Healthcare professionals are asked to continue to use current stocks first with substituted needles. **New stocks, starting with batch S0052A, will be provided via the normal supply process.** The new needle batch numbers start with 110211.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact the Medical Information Department at Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd on 01276 698370.

Reporting suspected adverse drug reactions

Please report suspected adverse reactions with any medicine or vaccine to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme online at www.yellowcard.gov.uk.

Alternatively, prepaid Yellow Cards for reporting are available:

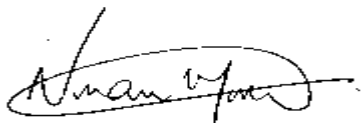
- upon request by mail: 'FREEPOST YELLOW CARD'
- at the back of the British National Formulary (BNF)
- by telephoning the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) free phone line: 0800 731 6789
- or by electronic download through the MHRA website (<http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/downloads/>).

When reporting please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medication, onset and treatment dates.

Suspected adverse drug reactions should also be reported to Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd. on 01276 698 370.

HSC Board/RQIA should bring this information to the attention of private hospitals/clinics registered with them and any other relevant care facilities.

Yours sincerely



DR NORMAN MORROW
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

For information:

CMO
CNO
CDO
CSSO
SMO
Director, Health Estates
Public Health Branch
DHSSPS, Library
Extended nurse prescribers

Regional Medicines and Poisons Information Service
Regional Director of Supplies
RPQAS
Pharmaceutical Society of NI
Senior Prison Pharmacist
Prison Service, Dundonald House
Nursing Officer, Health Estates
Medical Officer, Castle Buildings
Regional Procurement Pharmacist
NICPLD