



From The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
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**For Action:** Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of the Boards & CSA  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of HSC Trusts  
Regional Quality Improvement Authority

Our reference: PHC/8/09  
Date: 9 March 2009

## **DRUG ALERT**

**Caution in Use**

Dear Healthcare Professional

**Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited**

**Timoptol-LA 0.25% w/v & 0.5% w/v Gel-Forming Eye Drops Solution  
(Timolol maleate)**

**PL 0025/0310 & 0311**

**Timoptol-LA 0.25% w/v**

<b>Batch Number</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>	<b>First Distributed</b>
0890030	31 August 2010	1x2.5ml	06 January 2009
0893240	31 August 2010	1x2.5ml	11 February 2009

**Timoptol-LA 0.5% w/v**

<b>Batch number</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>	<b>First Distributed</b>
0890080	31 October 2010	1x 2.5ml	06 January 2009
0893220	31 October 2010	1x 2.5ml	04 February 2009

Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited have informed the MHRA that there is an error in the patient information leaflet (PIL) supplied in the above batches of Timoptol-LA 0.25% w/v & 0.5% w/v Gel-Forming Eye Drops Solution, concerning the dose to be administered. The leaflet text reads:

‘The usual dose is one drop in the affected eye(s) twice each day:

- one in the morning
- one in the evening’.

The text should read:

‘The usual dose is one drop in the affected eye(s) **once** each day’.

The remaining text of the leaflet is correct, as is the labelling of the products and the SPC.

In order to avoid stock disruption, these batches are not being recalled. Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited have confirmed that distribution of affected stock will cease as soon as stock containing the corrected PIL is available.

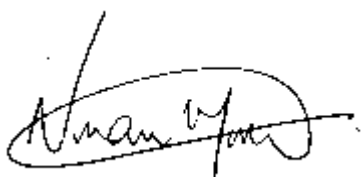
### **Further information**

For further enquiries, please telephone Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited Medical Information Department on 01992 455000

Area Boards/RQIA should bring this information to the attention of private hospitals/clinics registered with them, Out of Hours Centres and any other relevant care facilities.

The Central Services Agency is asked to bring this information to the attention of Community Pharmacists and General Medical Practitioners directly.

Yours sincerely



**DR NORMAN MORROW**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

For information:  
CMO  
CNO  
CDO  
CISSI  
SMO  
Director, Health Estates  
Public Health Branch  
DHSSPS, Library  
Extended nurse prescribers

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