



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:** Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of the Boards & CSA  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of HSC Trusts  
Regional Quality Improvement Authority

Our reference: PHC/19/08

Date: 28 November 2008

## **DRUG ALERT**

**Caution in Use**

### **Drug Alert (Caution in use): Sanofi-aventis - Priadel 400mg Prolonged Release Tablets (Prolonged release tablets containing 400mg lithium carbonate) - EL(08)A/18**

Sanofi-aventis have informed the MHRA that there is an error in the text of the carton for batches of Priadel 400mg Prolonged Release Tablets distributed since 29 October 2008. The strength of the tablets is printed incorrectly, as 200mg, on the rear panel of the carton immediately above the area where the dispensing label is to be applied. The information printed on the other panels of the carton, the blister foil and contained in the S MPC and PIL for the product is correct.

To avoid stock disruption distribution of affected stock will continue, therefore further deliveries over the next few months will display this error. Corrected cartons are being produced but it is unlikely that these will be supplied to the market before March 2009.

**In the meantime we have been asked to inform physicians and pharmacists that the pack supplied is a 400mg pack, and to suggest that the dispensing label is placed such that this error is obscured in order to avoid patient confusion.**

It is recognised that this is not the ideal solution but necessary to maintain supplies of medication. Pharmacists should therefore reassure patients should any enquiries arise.

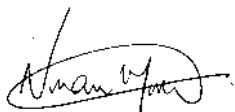
#### **Further information**

For further enquiries please telephone Sanofi-aventis Medical Information on 01483 505515.

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