



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE 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/20/08

Date: 4 December 2008

**DRUG ALERT**  
**MEDICINES DEFECT INFORMATION**  
Caution in Use

Dear Healthcare Professional

**PFIZER LIMITED**

**ZITHROMAX SUSPENSION 200mg/5ml, Powder to prepare 15ml (600mg) suspension**  
(Azithromycin suspension 200mg/5ml) PL 0057/0336

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size
814101	July 2011	15ml
819903	September 2011	15ml

The MHRA has been informed that a peel-off label is missing from the above batches of Zithromax Suspension 200mg/5ml, powder to prepare 15ml (600mg) suspension. These batches have been in circulation in the UK since August 2008. Other presentations of Zithromax suspension, 22.5ml (900mg) and 30ml (1200mg), do not require peel-off labels and are not affected by this issue.

The peel-off label is attached to the bottle label and is provided to assist the pharmacist in marking the correct dosage on the oral syringe. The instructions on the label and carton advise pharmacists "If administration with the syringe is required: detach sticker from bottle label and mark syringe to indicate the volume of medicine required".

In order to minimise stock disruption, distribution of affected stock will continue. Stock with the correct labelling is expected to be available from March 2009.

In the meantime, we have been asked to advise pharmacists to continue to mark the syringes using an appropriate alternative method, so that patients and carers are aware of the correct dosage.

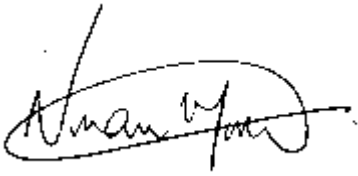
## Further Information

For further enquiries, please telephone Pfizer Medical Information on 01304 616161.

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 Dispensing Doctors **directly**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Morrow', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

**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