



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
Dr Norman Morrow
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For Action: Assistant Director Pharmacy and Medicines Management
HSC Board & BSO
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of HSC Trusts
Regional Quality Improvement Authority

Our Ref: PHC/33/09

Date: 16 November 2009

DRUG ALERT MEDICINES RECALL

Dear Healthcare Professional

Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) Ltd
Gaviscon Advance Peppermint Flavour **PL 0063/0103**
Oral Suspension containing sodium alginate 500mg and potassium bicarbonate 100mg in 5ml

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
924471	1/08/2011	500ml bottle	19/9/2009
925071	1/09/2011	500 ml bottle	19/9/2009

Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) Ltd are recalling the above lots due to a low level microbial contamination detected in one of the batches. The contamination causes spoilage of the product and a phenolic or antiseptic smell. The product should smell of peppermint.

The microbial contamination is not likely to be harmful to normally healthy consumers. However, if this product is being used by patients with suppressed immune systems, such as patients on chemotherapy, the risk of infection and other adverse reactions cannot be ruled out. General Practitioners or Pharmacists receiving enquiries from such patients are requested to give professional advice and refer to the responsible treatment centre where necessary.

A low percentage of bottles in Batch No. 924471 are known to be affected. Although no bottles in Batch No. 925071 have been reported as defective, the marketing authorisation holder wishes to recall this batch as a precautionary measure, whilst the causes are being investigated.

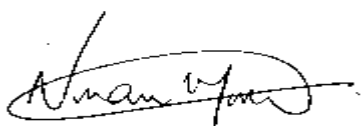
For Medical information enquiries, please call 0500 455 456.

For all queries relating to stock return please contact your Wholesaler or if you are a Wholesaler, please contact Reckitt Benckiser Customer Services on 01482 582777.

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

The Business Services Organisation 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
NICPLD