Safety Notice 011/11

Recall of activated Drotrecogin alfa (Xigris)

26 October 2011

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance

Action required by:

- Directors of Clinical Governance

We recommend you also inform:

- Drug and Therapeutic Committees
- Directors of Nursing and Midwifery
- Directors of Pharmacy
- Department Heads
- Directors of ICU
- Pharmacists
- Medical staff
- Nurses

Expert Reference Group

Content reviewed by:

Clinical Safety Quality and Governance Branch

NSW Ministry of Health
Tel. 02 9391 9200
Fax. 02 9391 9556
Email
quality@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/

http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/

Background

Activated drotrecogin alfa (Xigris) is a recombinant human activated protein C indicated for the reduction of mortality in adult patients with severe sepsis who have a high risk of death.

On advice of Eli Lilly in a recently completed clinical trial (PROWESS-SHOCK trial) [1], Xigris failed to show a survival benefit. The results of the PROWESS-SHOCK study have now become available and they fail to meet the primary endpoint of a statistically significant reduction in 28-day all-cause mortality in patients treated with Xigris compared with placebo

These results call into question the overall benefit-risk balance of Xigris for the indicated patient population (severe sepsis).

Eli Lilly has announced that the drug is to be withdrawn from the market worldwide with all related clinical trials discontinued.

Local Health Districts / Networks should:

- Cease the use of Xigris treatment.
- Ensure no new patients commence on Xigris treatment.
- Distribute this notice to all relevant stakeholders and clinical departments.
- Develop a local plan to manage ongoing patient care and treatment in response to this recall.
- Return any unused stocks to the supplier.

Further information

For further Product Information, contact
Eli Lilly Australia Customer Service on 02 - 9325-4590 between 0800hrs – 1600hrs.

Reference

1. Silva, E, Poli de Figueiredo, Colombari, F PROWESS-SHOCK TRIAL: A protocol Overview and Perspectives, Intensive Care Unit, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein; and Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Sa˜o Paulo, Sa˜o Paulo, Brazil

2. Gentry CA, Gross KB, Sud B, Drevets DA. Adverse outcomes associated with the use of drotrecogin alfa (activated) in patients with severe sepsis and baseline bleeding precautions. *Crit Care Med* 2009 37(1):19-25.

Suggested Actions by Local Health Districts/Networks:

1. Ensure this Safety Notice is distributed to all relevant stakeholders.
2. Ensure that no new patients are commenced on Xigris treatment.
3. Ensure that patients being treated with Xigris have their ongoing treatment ceased.
4. Develop a local plan to manage ongoing patient care and treatment in response to this recall.
5. Return any unused stocks to the supplier.