

## DRUG ALERT

### CLASS 1 MEDICINES RECALL

Action Now – including out of hours  
Patient, Pharmacy and Wholesaler Level Recall

Dear Healthcare Professional

**Clinigen Healthcare Ltd**

**Mexiletine hydrochloride 50mg Hard Capsules**

**PL 31644/0027**

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
2111216	04/2024	84 capsules	10/02/2022

**Mexiletine hydrochloride 100mg Hard Capsules**

**PL 31644/0028**

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
2111217	04/2024	84 capsules	10/02/2022

**Mexiletine hydrochloride 200mg Hard Capsules**

**PL 31644/0029**

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
2111218	04/2024	100 capsules	10/02/2022

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients: mexiletine hydrochloride

#### **Brief description of the problem**

Clinigen Healthcare Ltd is initiating a recall of the above batches due to recent stability test results, which identified that some individual capsules on the market may fall outside the individual fill weight range. This issue means that there is the potential for some capsules to have too little active ingredient (mexiletine hydrochloride) in them and some capsules to contain too much active ingredient. Due to the error, there is a potential for underdosing and overdosing and experience of potentially serious adverse events

Clinigen Healthcare Ltd has confirmed that no alternative batches of mexiletine hydrochloride 50mg, 100mg or 200mg hard capsules will be available until later in the year, therefore the recall of these batches from patients should only be considered where patients have access to appropriate alternative products. Clinigen Healthcare Ltd has confirmed that these three strengths are all out of stock and not available for order. See below for more information on resupplying patients with alternative products.

### Advice for healthcare professionals

- Stop supplying the above batches immediately. Quarantine all remaining stock and return it to your supplier using your supplier's approved process.
  
- Pharmacists involved in dispensing this product should immediately contact all patients who have been dispensed the impacted batches and ask them to confirm if they have remaining stock of the impacted batch within their possession. If batch traceability information is not available, all patients dispensed these products since 10 February 2022 should be contacted.
  
- **If the pharmacist identifies any patients with an impacted batch, they should, in the first instance, contact the patient's GP and discuss alternative mexiletine treatment for the patient. As this is a specialist use product and patients may require monitoring, other clinicians and healthcare professionals may need to be involved.**
  
- Patients should be advised not to stop any treatments without consulting their relevant healthcare professional. The risks of suddenly stopping medication for ventricular arrhythmias is higher than the potential risk presented by continuing to take capsules containing too much or too little of the active ingredient. This product should only be recalled from patients when it has been confirmed that the patient has access to an alternative mexiletine product.
  
- Healthcare professionals should be aware of the following clinical considerations related to the potential risk of either under- or overdosing.
  - Underdosing:

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- Underdose could lead to lack of efficacy, which could consequently result in a ventricular arrhythmia
  - There needs to be an increased vigilance for symptoms of arrhythmias (palpitation, chest pain, shortness of breath, light-headedness, and syncope) reported by a patient, which may be due to underdosing.
  - A patient alert card is supplied with the product in each pack. Advise patients to complete their and their doctor's name and contact details on the patient alert card and keep it with them at all times, for instance in a wallet or a purse.
  - Discuss the risk of cardiac arrhythmias with patients and tell them to seek urgent medical attention if they experience any new or worsening of symptoms of an arrhythmia including palpitations, angina pain, chest discomfort, dizziness and loss of consciousness
  - The HCP guide for management of risk of cardiac arrhythmia is available here: [Mexiletine Hydrochloride Healthcare Professional Guide.pdf \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- Overdosing:
    - The clinical features include nausea, hypotension, bradycardia, paraesthesia, left bundle branch block, asystole, convulsions, which may be life-threatening and can be fatal.
    - Refer to the approved Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) for treatment recommendations: [Click here to access SmPC via eMC.](#)
- Any patients experiencing any of the symptoms listed above should be advised to immediately contact their nearest accident and emergency centre.
  - Healthcare professionals should note that some patients may have an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) fitted and additional monitoring should be considered where appropriate.
  - Additional monitoring should be considered for all patients due to the potential for under- and/or overdosing to have occurred and as per product literature to monitor electrolytes, full blood counts and liver function tests during treatment and where alternative products may be provided.

- Patients who have the impacted batch can be provided with a [supplementary letter](#) to explain any potential observations in relation to the issue and underdosing and/or overdosing.

### Advice for healthcare professionals on recall and resupply

- **If the pharmacist identifies any patients with an impacted batch, they should, in the first instance, contact the patient's GP and discuss alternative mexiletine treatment for the patient. As this is a specialist use product and patients may require monitoring, other clinicians and healthcare professionals may need to be involved.**
- Healthcare professionals should be aware that other licensed preparations for mexiletine are available. Whilst licensed mexiletine products marketed by Clinigen Healthcare Ltd are out of stock, the only other licensed mexiletine product available is Namuscla 167mg (equivalent to 200mg mexiletine hydrochloride) hard capsules, Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC): <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9838/smpc#gref>
  - Namuscla 167mg hard capsules: Namuscla is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of myotonia in adult patients with non-dystrophic myotonic disorders and is not indicated for treatment of life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias and supply would be considered "off-label" use.
  - Although the MHRA does not recommend "off label" (outside of the licensed indications) use of products, if alternative UK licensed products can meet the patients clinical need, even "off-label", they should be used instead of an unlicensed product. Licensed products available in the UK have been assessed for quality, safety, and efficacy. It should be understood that the prescribing healthcare professional's responsibility and potential liability are increased when prescribing off-label.
- Healthcare professionals may consider that an unlicensed product (special) should be used as an alternative mexiletine product for patients requiring maintenance doses and any dose titrations in the absence of alternative licensed products.
- **Ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports:**

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- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and HSC Trust or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:
  - [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
  - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
  - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
- When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative, prescribers must indicate on the HS21 prescription that an unlicensed product is required by annotating with the wording “**special order**”.
- Patients should be advised to report any side effects to their healthcare professional and via the [MHRA’s Yellow Card scheme](#).

### Advice for patients

- Patients should not stop taking mexiletine without consulting your relevant healthcare professional. The risks of suddenly stopping medication for ventricular arrhythmias is higher than the potential risk presented by taking capsules containing too much or too little mexiletine.
- See further information in the [supplementary letter](#) explaining any potential observations relating to underdosing and/or overdosing.
- If you feel unwell or experience any of the symptoms mentioned relating to either underdose or overdose, please contact your doctor immediately or visit the nearest accident and emergency centre.

### Further Information

For more information on licensed stock and resupply queries for the licensed presentation, please contact Quantum Pharmaceutical +44 (0) 1207 279 400 or email [enquiries@quantumpharma.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@quantumpharma.co.uk)



For medical information queries, please contact Clinigen Medical Information on +44 (0) 1932 824026 or email [medicalinformation@clinigengroup.com](mailto:medicalinformation@clinigengroup.com)

For all other enquires please contact Clinigen Healthcare Ltd on +44 (0) 1283 494 340 or email [medicineaccess@clinigengroup.com](mailto:medicineaccess@clinigengroup.com)

Recipients of this Medicines Notification should bring it to the attention of relevant contacts by copy of this notice.

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.

Recipients of this Drug Alert should bring it to the attention of relevant contacts by copy of this letter.

**TO ALL CHEMISTS, DOCTORS ON THE LISTS**

Pharmaceutical Services  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

Telephone No. 028 9536 0333

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Pharmaceutical website: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net>