PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD
HONG KONG
香港藥劑業及毒藥管理局

Your Ref. :
貴處檔號

Our Ref. : DH DO PRIE/1-55/1
本局檔號

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圖文傳真

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香港九龍南昌街382號
公共衞生檢測中心三樓

21st April 2016

To: Certificate holders of
registered pharmaceutical products

Dear Sirs / Madams,

New Safety Warnings for Potential Interaction between Allopurinol and 6-Mercaptopurine/Azathioprine

On 14th April 2016, the Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances: Certification of Clinical Trial/Medicinal Test) Committee (the Committee) considered the latest overseas recommendations on the potential interaction between allopurinol and 6-mercaptopurine/azathioprine, and decided that the sales pack labels and/or package inserts of pharmaceutical products containing allopurinol, 6-mercaptopurine and azathioprine should include the following new safety warnings:

a. For products containing **allopurinol**:

Interactions with other medicines

6-Mercaptopurine and azathioprine

When 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine is given concurrently with allopurinol, only one-quarter of the usual dose of 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine should be given because inhibition of xanthine oxidase will prolong their activity.

b. For products containing **6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine:**

Interactions with other medicines

Allopurinol/oxipurinol/thiopurinol

Xanthine oxidase activity is inhibited by allopurinol, oxipurinol and thiopurinol which results in reduced conversion of biologically active 6-thioinosinic acid to biologically inactive 6-thiouric acid. When allopurinol, oxipurinol and/or thiopurinol are given concomitantly with 6-mercaptopurine or azathioprine, the dose of 6-mercaptopurine and azathioprine should be reduced to one quarter of the original dose.

You are therefore required to review and revise, if necessary, the sales pack labels and/or package inserts of the concerned products registered by your company to ensure that the products comply with the above requirements. The revised sales pack labels and/or package inserts should be submitted to the Committee for approval within 2 months from the date of this letter. Failing to comply with the above requirements may result in de-registration of the products by the Committee.

If you have any enquiries on the above issue, please contact the Drug Office duty officer at 2319 8458.

Yours sincerely,

(Clive CHAN)
Secretary,
Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances: Certification of Clinical Trial/Medicinal Test) Committee

c.c. 7-15/3, Product Files
KL/CC