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

14th June 2018

To: Certificate holders of
registered pharmaceutical products

Dear Sir / Madam,

New Warnings for Gadolinium-Based Contrast Agents (GBCAs)

On 12th June 2018, the Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances: Certification of Clinical Trial/Medicinal Test) Committee (the Committee) considered the latest new warnings and regulatory actions for gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) imposed by the drug regulatory authorities of the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, China and Singapore, and decided that the sales pack labels and/or package inserts of registered pharmaceutical products containing GBCAs should include the following new information:

Gadolinium Retention

Gadolinium is retained for months or years in several organs. The highest concentrations (nanomoles per gram of tissue) have been identified in the bone, followed by other organs (for example, brain, skin, kidney, liver, and spleen). The duration of retention also varies by tissue and is longest in bone. Linear GBCAs cause more retention than macrocyclic GBCAs. At equivalent doses, gadolinium retention varies among the linear agents with gadodiamide and gadoversetamide causing greater retention than other linear agents gadoxetate

disodium, gadopentetate dimeglumine and gadobenate dimeglumine. Retention is lowest and similar among the macrocyclic GBCAs gadoterate meglumine, gadobutrol, and gadoteridol.

Consequences of gadolinium retention in the brain have not been established. Pathologic and clinical consequences of GBCA administration and retention in skin and other organs have been established in patients with impaired renal function. There are rare reports of pathologic skin changes in patients with normal renal function. Adverse events involving multiple organ systems have been reported in patients with normal renal function without an established causal link to gadolinium retention.

While clinical consequences of gadolinium retention have not been established in patients with normal renal function, certain patients might be at higher risk. These include patients requiring multiple lifetime doses, pregnant and pediatric patients, and patients with inflammatory conditions. Consider the retention characteristics of the agent when choosing a GBCA for these patients. Minimize repetitive GBCA imaging studies particularly closely spaced studies, when possible.

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 new 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 Mr. Paul Wong at 2209 9495.

Yours sincerely,

(T.K. YIM)
Secretary,
Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances: Certification of Clinical Trial/Medicinal Test) Committee

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

TK/PW