Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on RITUXAN® (rituximab)

July 29, 2013

Dear Health Care Professional:

Subject: Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Reactivation in Patients Treated with RITUXAN® (rituximab): Updates on Screening and Management

Hoffmann-La Roche Limited (Roche), in consultation with Health Canada, would like to inform you of important updates to the recommendations for screening and management of hepatitis B virus reactivation in patients treated with RITUXAN.

RITUXAN is an anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody indicated in the treatment of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL), Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA, also known as Wegener's Granulomatosis) and Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA).

- **Use of RITUXAN has been shown to be associated with reactivation of hepatitis B virus in seropositive patients.**
- **It is advised that all patients be screened for hepatitis B virus (HBV) before initiation of treatment with RITUXAN.**
- **RITUXAN is not to be used in patients with active hepatitis B viral disease.**
- **Prior to starting treatment in HBV seropositive patients, consultation with a liver disease expert is recommended to determine ongoing monitoring of HBV reactivation and its management.**

Further Information

The use of RITUXAN has been associated with HBV reactivation in patients with positive HBV surface antigen (HBsAg+ve) and in those with negative HBV surface antigen plus positive anti-HB core antibody (HBsAg-ve/HBcAb+ve), particularly when administered in combination with steroids or chemotherapy.

The existing information on hepatitis B virus reactivation in the current Product Monograph for RITUXAN is being updated to reflect the new recommendations for screening, monitoring and management of the disease.

Managing marketed health product-related adverse reactions depends on health care professionals and consumers reporting them. Reporting rates determined on

the basis of spontaneously reported post-marketing adverse reactions are generally presumed to underestimate the risks associated with health product treatments. Any case of hepatitis B reactivation or other serious or unexpected adverse reactions in patients receiving RITUXAN should be reported to Roche or Health Canada.

Hoffmann-La Roche Limited
Drug Safety Department
2455 Meadowpine Boulevard
Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 6L7
or call toll free at: 1-888-762-4388
or fax at: 905-542-5864
or email to: mississauga.drug_safety@roche.com

To correct your mailing address or fax number, contact Hoffmann-La Roche Limited.

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345; or
- Visiting MedEffect Canada's Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/index-eng.php) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax

For other health product inquires related to this communication, contact Health Canada at:
Marketed Health Products Directorate (MHPD)
E-mail: mhpd_dpsc@hc-sc.gc.ca
Tel: (613) 954-6522
Fax: (613) 952-7738

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of RITUXAN, please contact the Drug Information Department at Hoffmann-La Roche Limited at 1-888-762-4388, Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

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Hoffmann-La Roche Limited