衞生署藥物辦公室
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DRUG OFFICE
DRUG REGISTRATION AND
IMPORT/EXPORT CONTROL DIVISION
3/F., Public Health Laboratory Centre,
382 Nam Cheong Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

31 July 2015

(來函請敍明此檔案號碼)
(IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE THIS FILE REF.)

Dear Healthcare Professionals,

Brintellix (vortioxetine) and Brilinta (ticagrelor) - Name Confusion

Your attention is drawn to the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) announcement regarding name confusion between Brintellix (vortioxetine) and Brilinta (ticagrelor).

FDA is warning that reports of confusion between the antidepressant Brintellix and anti-blood clotting medication Brilinta have resulted in the wrong medication being prescribed or dispensed. FDA determined that the main reason for the confusion between these two medications is the similarity of their brand (proprietary) names. None of the reports indicates that a patient ingested the wrong medication; however, reports of prescribing and dispensing errors continue.

Brintellix is used to treat major depressive disorder in adults. It is in a class of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). Brilinta is an antiplatelet medication used to lower the risk of having another heart attack, or dying from a heart problem after a heart attack or severe chest pain.

Healthcare professionals are advised to reduce the risk of name confusion by including the generic (established) name of the medication, in addition to the brand name, and the indication for use when prescribing these medications.

Please refer to the FDA's website for details:

http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm456569.htm

In Hong Kong, Brintellix Tablets 5mg (HK-63601), 10mg (HK-63600) and 20mg (HK-63599) are pharmaceutical products registered by Lundbeck Export A/S; while Brilinta Tab 90mg (HK-61187) is a pharmaceutical product registered by AstraZeneca Hong Kong Ltd. All products are prescription-only medicines. So far, the Department of Health (DH) has received one case of adverse drug reaction (ADR) on Brilinta, and it was not related to ingestion of the wrong medication. The DH has not received any ADR case on Brintellix. The DH will remain vigilant on any safety information of the drugs.

Please report any adverse events caused by drugs to the Pharmacovigilance Unit of the DH (tel. no.: 2319 2920, fax: 2319 6319 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website at Drug Office under "ADR Reporting": http://www.drugoffice.gov.hk/adr.html. You may wish to visit the Drug Office's website for subscription and browsing of "Drug News" which is a monthly digest of drug safety news and information issued by Drug Office.

Yours faithfully,

(Grant NG)
for Assistant Director (Drug)