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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DRUG OFFICE

DRUG INFORMATION AND
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本署檔號 OUR REF.:

DH DO PRIE/7-30/15

(來函請註明此檔案號碼)
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13 Dec 2021

Dear Healthcare Professionals,

Summary Safety Review

Amoxicillin-containing products: Assessing the potential risks of Aseptic meningitis

Your attention is drawn to the Health Canada's announcement that it reviewed the potential risk of aseptic meningitis in patients treated with amoxicillin-containing products. The safety review was triggered by case reports published in the literature in the past 3 years concerning this risk.

Health Canada reviewed the available information from searches of the Canada Vigilance database, international databases, and published literature and concluded that there may be a link between the use of amoxicillin-containing products and the risk of aseptic meningitis. Health Canada will work with the manufacturers to include the risk of aseptic meningitis in the Canadian Product Monographs for amoxicillin-containing products that do not already contain this safety information.

Please refer to the following website in Health Canada for details:

<https://hpr-rps.hres.ca/reg-content/summary-safety-review-detail.php?lang=en&linkID=SSR00276>

In Hong Kong, there are 180 registered pharmaceutical products for human use containing amoxicillin and are prescription-only medicines. So far, the Department of Health (DH) has received 28 cases of adverse drug reaction related to amoxicillin, but these cases are not related to aseptic meningitis. Healthcare professionals are advised to balance the risk of possible adverse effects against the benefit of treatment.

Please report any adverse events caused by drugs to the Adverse Drug Reaction 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,

(Terence MAN)

for Assistant Director (Drug)

*We build a healthy Hong Kong and
aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority*