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(來函請敍明此檔案號碼) DH DO DIMC/7-30/1
(IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE THIS FILE REF.)

8 Sep 2025

Dear Healthcare Professionals,

**Caspofungin: new warning against use of polyacrylonitrile-based membranes during continuous renal replacement therapy**

Your attention is drawn to the following European Medicines Agency's (EMA) announcement that its safety committee, Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC), has endorsed a direct healthcare professional communication (DHPC) warning about the use of polyacrylonitrile (PAN)-based membranes during continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) in critically ill patients receiving caspofungin. CRRT involves non-stop dialysis in patients with acute kidney injury and fluid overload.

Caspofungin is an antifungal medicine, given by intravenous infusion for the treatment of fungal infections in adults and children.

Laboratory data suggest that the PAN-based membranes used to filter the blood in CRRT can bind caspofungin and decrease its effectiveness. In addition, lack of caspofungin effectiveness has been reported in patients undergoing CRRT with these membranes.

Antifungal treatment failure may lead to worsening of the systemic fungal infection, which may be fatal in these critically ill patients.

Healthcare professionals should verify the type of haemofiltration membrane used before initiating and during treatment with caspofungin. If PAN-derived membranes are being used, healthcare professionals should either switch to an alternative membrane or consider an alternative antifungal medicine.

The DHPC for caspofungin will be disseminated to healthcare professionals by the marketing authorisation holder, according to an agreed communication plan, and published on the direct healthcare professional communications page and/or in national registers in EU Member States.

Please refer to the following websites in EMA for details:
https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/meeting-highlights-pharmacovigilance-risk-assessment-committee-prac-1-4-september-2025.

In Hong Kong, there are 4 registered pharmaceutical products containing caspofungin. All products are prescription-only medicines. So far, the Department of Health (DH) has not received any case of adverse drug reaction with regard to caspofungin. In light of the above EMA's announcement, the matter will be discussed by the Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong.

Please note that this letter serves as a mean for the DH to communicate important new safety information about registered pharmaceutical products with healthcare professionals in Hong Kong and is not intended to serve as guidelines or to replace professional clinical judgement. 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 Clinical Trials and 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,

(Vincent CHIANG)
for Assistant Director (Drug)