



PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD
HONG KONG
香港藥劑業及毒藥管理局

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3rd March 2026

Dear Healthcare Professionals,

Warning: be alert to the risk of drug interaction with tramadol

Your attention is drawn to the announcement issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of the United Kingdom (UK) about the risk of drug interactions when using warfarin with tramadol, and to the decision of the Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances) Committee (the Registration Committee) under the Pharmacy and Poisons Board in response to the MHRA's announcement.

On 20 June 2024, the MHRA announced that taking warfarin and tramadol together can cause harmful drug interactions, which can raise the International Normalised Ratio (INR), and result in severe bruising and bleeding, which in some patients could be fatal.

The MHRA has received a Coroner's report following the death of a patient who died from a bleed on the brain, following concurrent treatment with warfarin and tramadol. The Coroner raised concerns that the interaction between warfarin and tramadol was not well known and emphasised the need to highlight this interaction to healthcare professionals.

For further details of the announcement, please refer to the following website in the MHRA:
www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/warfarin-be-alert-to-the-risk-of-drug-interactions-with-tramadol

On 21 June 2024, a Letter to Healthcare Providers related to the above announcement was issued by the Department of Health. Please refer to the following website for the concerned letter:
www.drugoffice.gov.hk/eps/upload/eps_news/53693/EN/1/tramadol.pdf

After recent review of the above MHRA's announcement, the Registration Committee has decided that, for the sake of patients' safety, the sales pack labels and/or package inserts of registered pharmaceutical products containing warfarin or tramadol shall include the following safety information (or equivalent):

(I) For warfarin:

"Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Caution should be exercised during concomitant treatment with tramadol and warfarin due to reports of increased INR with major bleeding and ecchymoses in some patients."

(II) For tramadol:

"Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Caution should be exercised during concomitant treatment with tramadol and coumarin derivatives (e.g. warfarin) due to reports of increased INR with major bleeding and ecchymoses in some patients."

In Hong Kong, there are 4 registered pharmaceutical products containing warfarin and 44 registered pharmaceutical products containing tramadol. They are all prescription-only medicines. The registration certificate holders of the relevant products are being notified of the new labelling requirements. They shall submit applications to update the sales pack labels and/or package inserts of their products where necessary.

Yours faithfully,



(Y. F. YEUNG)
Secretary,
Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of
Pharmaceutical Products and Substances)
Committee