

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Brian Schweitzer
GOVERNOR

Anna Whiting Sorrell
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

www.dphhs.mt.gov

PO BOX 4210
HELENA, MT 59604-4210
(406) 444-5622
FAX (406) 444-1970

State of Montana
DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Forwarding Instructions:

FORWARD to your local HAN contacts including pharmacists, infection control contacts and selected physicians.

DPHHS Information / Recommendations:

Please see the attached advisory from CDC concerning certain contaminated IV medications. DPHHS recommends sharing this advisory with pharmacists, infection control contacts and selected physicians.

DPHHS Subject Matter Expert (SME) Contact:

Clinicians with additional questions may contact FDA at 1-888-463-6332 or druginfo@fda.hhs.gov

**Distributed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services
Health Alert Network (HAN) System**

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline: 1-800-701-5769
DPHHS HAN Website: www.han.mt.gov

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov.

The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message. For questions or comments about Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at gwheat@mt.gov.

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Subject: Healthcare Professionals Warned Not To Use Certain Intravenous Metronidazole, Ondansetron, and Ciprofloxacin Due To Potential Contamination

From: healthalert@cdc.gov [mailto:healthalert@cdc.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:40 AM

To: DPHHS HAN

Subject: Healthcare Professionals Warned Not To Use Certain Intravenous Metronidazole, Ondansetron, and Ciprofloxacin Due To Potential Contamination

This is an official
CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
June 1, 2010, 08:15:00 EST (8:15 AM EST)
CDCHAN-000314-2010-06-01-ADV-N

**Healthcare Professionals Warned Not To Use Certain Intravenous Metronidazole,
Ondansetron, and Ciprofloxacin Due To Potential Contamination**

Summary

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting healthcare professionals not to use certain intravenous (IV) bags of metronidazole, ondansetron, and ciprofloxacin because of potential contamination. FDA has received reports of floating matter in IV bags manufactured by Claris Lifesciences Limited, in Ahmedabad, India. Microbiological analysis identified the matter in one of the bags as a *Cladosporium* mold. Molds of this type can cause infections in susceptible patients, such as immunocompromised individuals. At this time, FDA is not aware of any reports of injuries due to administration of these products. Affected products include any metronidazole, ondansetron, and ciprofloxacin manufactured by Claris Lifesciences Limited and sold under the following labels: Claris, Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer, West-Ward Pharmaceuticals.

Background

Metronidazole and ciprofloxacin are antibiotics used to treat a variety of infections. Ondansetron is an antiemetic used to treat nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy or surgery. A complaint of white matter in a bag of metronidazole was received, and subsequent microbiological analysis identified the matter as a *Cladosporium* mold. Molds of this type can cause infections in susceptible patients, such as immunocompromised individuals. Another complaint of white matter in a bag of ondansetron was received and that bag is currently under analysis. Foreign matter should not be present in a sterile injectable product.

Recommendations

While FDA is learning more about the situation, healthcare professionals should NOT use and should immediately remove from their pharmacy inventories any metronidazole, ondansetron, and ciprofloxacin intravenous bags sold under the following labels:

- **Claris**
- **Sagent Pharmaceuticals**
- **Pfizer**

- **West-Ward Pharmaceuticals**

Only metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, and ondansetron in IV bags sold under the Claris, Sagent, Pfizer, and West-Ward Pharmaceuticals labels are affected. Claris is initiating a recall of all lots of these products. These products were all manufactured on the same production line.

For patients who have received any one of these products, clinicians are advised to stop usage immediately and observe patients for any signs of new infection (e.g., fevers or chills). Clinicians are requested to report any suspected adverse events following use of these products to FDA's MedWatch program at 1-800-332-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch. On May 17, 2010, FDA posted an announcement that Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. had announced a voluntary recall of specific lots of metronidazole injection (see <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm212302.htm>). Today's HAN Advisory announces a recall initiated by Claris covering all lots of the three affected products (metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, and ondansetron) manufactured by Claris and sold under the labels Claris, Sagent, West-Ward, and Pfizer.

For More Information:

FDA intends to provide new information when it becomes available. Clinicians with additional questions may contact FDA at 1-888-463-6332 or druginfo@fda.hhs.gov

Additional information is available at: www.fda.gov

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This Message was distributed to State and Local Health Officers, Public Information Officers, Epidemiologists and HAN Coordinators as well as Clinician organizations

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please contact your State-based Health Alert Network program at your State or local health department.
