Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

M E D I C I N E S N O T I F I C A T I O N

CLASS 4 MEDICINES DEFECT INFORMATION

Caution in Use
Distribute to Pharmacy / Wholesaler Level

Date: 10 November 2022 NatPSA/2022/009/MHRA Our Ref: MDR 219-10/22

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Macarthys Laboratories (Trading as Martindale Pharma, an Ethypharm Group Company)

Marketing authorisation holder: Aurum Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Prenoxad 1mg/ml Solution for Injection in a pre-filled syringe — PL 12064/0125

Batch/Lot Number	Expiry Date	Kit Size	First Distributed
0116917	02/2023	1 kit	27 March 2020
0119973	02/2023	1 kit	09 April 2020
0120140	02/2023	1 kit	09 April 2020
0125553	04/2023	1 kit	13 May 2020
0125555	04/2023	1 kit	24 July 2020
0125724	04/2023	1 kit	09 June 2020
0126941	05/2023	1 kit	03 July 2020
0126943	06/2023	1 kit	16 July 2020
0130203	08/2023	1 kit	06 October 2020
0130732	08/2023	1 kit	16 October 2020
0130843	09/2023	1 kit	15 October 2020
0134251	01/2024	1 kit	26 February 2021
0136031	04/2024	1 kit	01 July 2021
0136536	05/2024	1 kit	03 August 2021
0136551	05/2024	1 kit	03 August 2021
0137656	09/2024	1 kit	24 October 2021
0137768	10/2024	1 kit	07 December 2021
0138525	11/2024	1 kit	26 January 2022
0138904	01/2025	1 kit	14 March 2022
0139907	04/2025	1 kit	17 May 2022
0140236	04/2025	1 kit	10 June 2022
0141035	06/2025	1 kit	22 September 2022
0141812	07/2025	1 kit	21 October 2022
0141969	08/2025	1 kit	11 October 2022

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient: naloxone hydrochloride

Brief description of the problem:
Macarthys Laboratories (trading as Martindale Pharma, an Ethypharm Group Company), has notified the MHRA that a limited number of Prenoxad kits (also called packs) in a batch marketed in France have missing needles.

Although no reports of UK kits with missing needles have been received to date, the potential for kits to contain fewer than two (2) needles in all distributed batches (listed in this notification for completeness) cannot be excluded based on the investigation by the company. However, due to the critical need for this product to be available, the specified batches are **not** being recalled.

Prenoxad kits are packed with two (2) Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles, along with the pre-filled syringe containing the active ingredient naloxone hydrochloride, and a Patient Information Leaflet.

Naloxone is a drug that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. If no needles are present at the time of administration, there is a risk that patients, members of the public and/or healthcare professionals may not be able to administer life-saving doses of naloxone from these kits in an emergency. This may impede the treatment for a patient with an opioid overdose, which may result in delay to intervention and possible death.

Healthcare professionals and service providers should note the guidance below before supplying Prenoxad kits.

Advice for all healthcare professionals and service providers, including community pharmacies, emergency services, and prisons

- Check all Prenoxad kits in place at your organisation against the batches specified in this notification.

- Confirm two (2) needle packets are present in the kit, hold the front of the kit (with the Lot number and 2D matrix facing you) and visually inspect against a light source (see images in Appendix 1).

- If needles cannot be clearly seen with the visual inspection of the kits, the kits can be physically opened to confirm the presence of two (2) needles inside (see images in Appendix 2). The kits can be closed after visual inspection. As the tamper evident seal (TES) will be broken as part of the physical inspection process, it is recommended that kits are only opened at the point of dispensing or supplying to a patient/individual/member of the public, so that they are aware of the reason for breaking the seal. Note that the clear plastic cap at the end of the pre-filled syringe must remain intact in order to maintain sterility of the medicinal product (see image in Appendix 3). Click the kit close after it is opened to ensure the contents stay secure.

- **Where there are kit(s) in your stock without two (2) needles, quarantine these immediately and contact Ethypharm to arrange for replacement kit(s). Similarly, where there are concerns around visual or physical inspection of the kit(s), healthcare professionals, service providers and local teams should contact Ethypharm for further advice or to arrange replacement kit(s). The company contact details can be found in the 'Further Information' section of this notification.**

- If use is required in an emergency, and needles are missing from the kit, Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles or reasonable alternative needles should be used for intramuscular administration of Prenoxad.

- Where healthcare professionals, service providers and local teams (including those involved in needle and syringe programmes) are able to make contact with patients and members of the public who have been supplied with Prenoxad, they should inform them to check their kits to ensure they contain two (2) needles in each kit. Support should be provided to individuals with

kits who are unsure how to check their kits. The action to contact all holders of kits will depend on the local procedures for record keeping, but efforts should be made to inform all likely holders of Prenoxad. Please see Supplementary Information for the individuals, patients and/or members of the public provided in the link below.

- If patients, individuals or members of the public report a Prenoxad kit **without** two (2) needles in the kit, arrange for a replacement and visually check for the presence of two needles before supplying the new Prenoxad kit, as per the instructions in the appendices.

- Report any defective kits via the MHRA Yellow Card scheme, including if kits are found to have fewer than two (2) needles in the kit. Include the batch/LOT number in this report.

- Please see the Summary of Product Characteristics for additional information on the use and safety of this product.

Advice for patients and members of the public, including peers, friends, family, carers

- Check to see if you have any kits of Prenoxad Injection in your possession or at home. It is possible that some Prenoxad kits contain fewer than two (2) needles in each kit. A needle is needed to administer the medicine (naloxone) from the pre-filled syringe. If a needle is not available, this means the medicine cannot be used to reverse opioid overdose in an emergency.

- Anyone with a Prenoxad kit is asked to visually check the contents by holding it against a light source to confirm the presence of two (2) needle packets. See images in Appendix 1 for reference.

- Alternatively, you could open your Prenoxad Injection kit to confirm that there are two (2) needles in each kit. See images in Appendix 2 for reference. If you open the kit, do not touch the pre-filled syringe (the tube with liquid in). The clear plastic cap at the end of the pre-filled syringe must be intact so that the injection remains sterile. See images in Appendix 3 for reference. The kits can be closed after visual inspection. Always click the kit closed after it is opened to ensure the contents stay secure.

- If you are unclear on how to visually check or physically open a Prenoxad kit, you can take it back to the healthcare professional or service provider who initially supplied this medicine to you and request assistance in checking the kit. This may be the local drug treatment service, a community pharmacy involved in support programmes, needle and syringe programmes, peer support groups, or drugs outreach workers.

- If you see that your kit does not contain two (2) needles, you must take it back to the provider who gave you the kit, or a community pharmacy involved in needle and syringe programmes, or a local substance misuse team or service provider, for a replacement.

- As per the advice stated in the Patient Information Leaflet, Prenoxad Injection should be carried by people at risk of an opioid overdose, therefore it is important that you have a replacement provided to you when you return any affected kits.

- There are no concerns about the medicine in these kits. If you, or somebody you observe, has taken an opioid and are experiencing the symptoms of opioid overdose, please seek medical assistance or visit the nearest accident and emergency centre. If you have nasal naloxone or injectable naloxone (with a needle) available, administer it according to the instructions in the kit. Symptoms of overdose can include the following:

  - pinpoint pupils
  - loss of consciousness (i.e. the person cannot be woken)
  - respiratory depression/breathing slows or stops
  - extremely pale face that may feel clammy to the touch
  - bluish purple tinge to lips or fingernails
  - no response to noise/cannot be awakened, unable to speak
  - vomiting or making gurgling noises

- **If someone has symptoms of an opioid overdose and is not breathing, call 999 and ask for an ambulance immediately.**

- Please see Patient Information Leaflet for further information.

Further Information
Please see Supplementary Information for the individuals, patients and/or members of the public.

For more information on licensed stock and resupply queries for the licensed presentation, please contact licensed@ethypharm.com; telephone number: 0800 028 7933.

For medical information queries and all other enquiries, please contact medinfo@ethypharm.com; telephone number 01277 266 600.

Recipients of this Medicines Recall should bring it to the attention of relevant contacts by copy of this notice. NHS regional teams are asked to forward this to community pharmacists and dispensing general practitioners for information.

Yours faithfully

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Canary Wharf
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DMRC@mhra.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Images of Prenoxad kits containing two (2) needle packets which can be visually checked against a light source

If needles are present, two (2) dark squares can be seen in the middle of the kit, off set slightly as shown below and indicated by the circle below on the image:



If one (1) needle is present, only one (1) dark square will be seen as shown below and indicated by the circle below on the image:



If no needles are present, the dark squares cannot be seen as shown below:



Appendix 2: Contents of an opened Prenoxad kit, and images of Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles

Contents of an opened kit. Prenoxad kits are packed with two (2) Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles, along with the pre-filled syringe containing the active ingredient (naloxone hydrochloride), and a Patient Information Leaflet



Two (2) Terumo 23 gauge 1¼ inch needles



Appendix 3: Image of the clear plastic cap at the end of the pre-filled syringe that needs to remain intact

Image detailing the clear plastic cap at the end of the pre-filled syringe that must remain intact in order to maintain sterility of the medicinal product

