

Date:

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Important information about the launch of generic medicines that contain piperacillin and tazobactam

- Generic piperacillin/tazobactam products must not be mixed or co-administered with any aminoglycoside
- Generic piperacillin/tazobactam must not be reconstituted or diluted with lactated Ringer's (Hartmann's) solution
- Piperacillin/tazobactam is licensed for the treatment of a wide range of infections. This medicine is now available as generic products in addition to the brand leader (called Tazocin)
- Tazocin, was reformulated last year and generic piperacillin/tazobactam product have different compatibilities with other medicines compared with Tazocin, raising a risk of serious medication errors
- Healthcare professionals are asked to adhere to the guidance outlined below when prescribing and using generic piperacillin/tazobactam

Further safety information

On [date], generic versions of piperacillin/tazobactam became available. These medicines have a different formulation to that of the brand leader product (called Tazocin, which was reformulated last year). The generic versions of this medicine have different compatibilities compared with the brand leader. These differences raise the potential for serious medication errors.

Please be advised that generic piperacillin/tazobactam must not be mixed or co-administered with any aminoglycoside, and must not be reconstituted or diluted with lactated Ringer's (Hartmann's) solution.

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- Pharmacists should clearly label reconstituted generic piperacillin/tazobactam with a statement that the product must not be mixed or co-administered with aminoglycosides
- Prescription charts should be checked to ensure that where patients are prescribed both aminoglycosides and generic piperacillin/tazobactam these are not administered at the same time as this can lead to substantial inactivation of the aminoglycoside. Clinical and nursing staff should be advised of the risks with these products
- Generic piperacillin/tazobactam is **not** compatible with lactated Ringer's (Hartmann's) solution

- Nursing staff should be advised not to mix or co-administer generic piperacillin/tazobactam with aminoglycosides, and not to add it to bags of lactated Ringer's (Hartmann's) solution
- If you are in doubt about which piperacillin/tazobactam medicine is in use, contact a hospital pharmacist before reconstitution or administration

Marketing Authorisation Holders for generic piperacillin/tazobactam are providing educational materials for healthcare professionals, including: guidance for pharmacists; posters for display in pharmacy-run CIVAS units; posters for display in nursing and clinical areas; and a training pack for all professionals who have a role in the supply and administration of these medicines.

Further information

For further information, please contact [MAH med info team]

Reporting of suspected adverse events

Please report suspected adverse events using a Yellow Card at www.yellowcard.gov.uk

Yours sincerely