

NOTICE OF SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS  
VIALS of ERWINASE<sup>®</sup> from BATCH 185G\* should be used with a 5-micron filter needle

Dear Healthcare Professional

Jazz Pharmaceuticals UK Limited would like to inform you of the following:

### Summary

- Small amounts of particulate matter have been observed bound to the stopper and/or present on the lyophilized cake of some vials of ERWINASE from BATCH 185G
- Vials of ERWINASE with visible particulate matter must not be administered. Please notify and retain the vial for collection. Follow all the recommended steps for the reconstitution of ERWINASE in accordance with the Summary of Product Characteristics
- Carefully inspect the reconstituted product. If you discover particulate matter after reconstitution, do not administer the product and retain for collection.
- If there is no visible particulate matter after reconstitution, **use a standard 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted product from the vial prior to administration as an additional precaution.**
- Vials from BATCH 185G can be identified by the following label, attached to the carton:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USE 5 MICRON FILTER NEEDLE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEE NOTICE OF SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS</b></p>
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### Recommendations for Preparation

ERWINASE is used in combination with other anti-neoplastic agents to treat acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. It may also be used in other neoplastic conditions where depletion of asparagine might be expected to have a useful effect. Patients receiving treatment with L-asparaginase from *Escherichia coli* and who develop hypersensitivity to that enzyme may be able to continue treatment with ERWINASE as the enzymes are immunologically distinct.

During routine inspection of BATCH 185G, particulate matter was observed bound to the stopper and/or present on the lyophilized cake of some vials of ERWINASE. These affected vials were segregated. There is a possibility that some remaining vials may contain particulate matter bound to the stopper and/or on the lyophilized cake, which if transferred to reconstituted ERWINASE, may pose a safety risk to patients. SPC Section 6.6 (*Special precautions for disposal and other handling*) instructs health care providers that “If there are any visible particles or protein aggregates present the reconstituted solution should be rejected.” The product should

not be administered in the event that particulate matter is discovered', pre- or post-reconstitution, please notify the Customer Services department<sup>1</sup> and retain the vial for collection.

In order to minimise the potential risk of exposure to sub-visible particulate matter, **use a standard 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted product from the vial prior to administration as an additional precaution.** A study has demonstrated that filtration through a 5-micron filter needle after reconstitution has no effect on ERWINASE activity.

Jazz Pharmaceuticals has assessed the overall benefit to risk ratio of administering ERWINASE for the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia as positive, particularly with the additional precaution of using a 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted product from the vial.

In the event that you should need to retain a vial of ERWINASE for collection, please contact the Customer Services department for replacement.

<sup>1</sup>Tel +44 (0)1865405019

Fax +44 (0)1865594353

[Customerservices.uk@jazzpharma.com](mailto:Customerservices.uk@jazzpharma.com)

### **Adverse Event Reporting**

In the event of any adverse reaction to ERWINASE, Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2, Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517; Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie); E-mail: [medsafety@hpra.ie](mailto:medsafety@hpra.ie)

### **Company contact point**

If you have any questions about this letter or any other enquiry, please contact Medical Information at the following address:

Tel +44 (0)845 0305089

[Medinfo-uk@jazzpharma.com](mailto:Medinfo-uk@jazzpharma.com)

This information is being sent to you with the agreement of the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Kelvin Tan

Vice President Medical Affairs

Jazz Pharmaceuticals

\*BATCH 185G may consist of packaged sub-lots: 185G117, 185G217

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(Additions to the current Summary of Product Characteristics in **bold + italics**)

Vials from BATCH 185G can be identified by the following label, attached to the carton:



The contents of each vial should be reconstituted in 1 ml to 2 ml of sodium chloride (0.9%) solution for injection. Slowly add the reconstitution solution against the inner vial wall, do not squirt directly onto or into the powder. Allow the contents to dissolve by gentle mixing or swirling maintaining the vial in an upright position. Avoid froth formation due to excessive or vigorous shaking.

The solution should be clear without any visible particles. Fine crystalline or thread-like wisps of protein aggregates may be visible if shaking is excessive. If there are any visible particles or protein aggregates present the reconstituted solution should be rejected and the vial and content should be retained for collection

**A standard 5-micron filter needle should be used to withdraw the reconstituted product from the vial prior to administration as an additional precaution.**

The solution should be administered within 15 minutes of reconstitution. If a delay of more than 15 minutes between reconstitution and administration is unavoidable, the solution should be withdrawn into a glass or polypropylene syringe for the period of the delay. The solution should be used within 4 hours.

**Additional information**

There are two centrally licensed products Spectrila (EU/1/15/1072/001 EU/1/15/1072/002) and Oncaspar (EU/1/15/1070/001) available. Both of these products are indicated as a component of antineoplastic combination therapy for the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in paediatric patients from birth to 18 years and adults. Spectrila contains 10,000 units of asparaginase and Oncaspar contains 750 units of pegaspargase. However Spectrila and Oncaspar may not be suitable in patients who are hypersensitive to the active substance, any native (non-pegylated) E. coli-asparaginase preparation, or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1 of the product information.

Please see the links below for further information.

Spectrila

[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/human/medicines/002661/human\\_med\\_001954.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/human/medicines/002661/human_med_001954.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124)

Oncaspar

[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/human/medicines/003789/human\\_med\\_001949.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/human/medicines/003789/human_med_001949.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124)