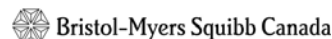


PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on
PLAVIX®



2009-08-20

Subject: Potential drug interaction between Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) and Plavix® (clopidogrel)

Sanofi-aventis Canada Inc. and Bristol Myers Squibb Canada Co., in collaboration with Health Canada, would like to inform you of a potential drug interaction between proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) and Plavix®. PPIs are used to treat stomach ulcers and heartburn and Plavix® is used to prevent blood clots that could lead to life-threatening events such as heart attack or stroke. This update is due to recent reports in the scientific literature suggesting a potential interaction that may reduce the effect of Plavix®.

- Healthcare professionals and patients should be aware of a potential interaction between PPIs and Plavix® that may reduce the effect of Plavix® and therefore reduce its ability to prevent events such as heart attack or stroke.
- Patients currently taking Plavix® should continue to take their Plavix® as directed. Patients should talk to their doctor if they are currently taking or are considering taking a PPI, as there are alternative therapies for the treatment of stomach ulcers and heartburn.

The Canadian prescribing information for Plavix® is being revised to provide doctors, pharmacists and patients with updated information regarding this potential interaction. Patients should discuss all their current medications with their healthcare professionals.

Managing marketed health product-related adverse reactions depends on health care professionals and consumers reporting them. Reporting rates determined on the basis of spontaneously reported post-marketing adverse reactions are generally presumed to underestimate the risks associated with health product treatments. Any case of serious drug interaction with a PPI or other serious or unexpected adverse reactions in patients taking Plavix® should be reported to sanofi-aventis Canada Inc. or Health Canada at the following addresses:

Sanofi-aventis Canada Inc.
2150 St. Elzear Blvd. West, LAVAL, Quebec, H7L 4A8
Tel : 1-800-265-7927

The Product Monograph (prescribing information) and a copy of this Important Safety Information can be accessed online at www.sanofi-aventis.ca and at www.bmscanada.ca.

A copy of this Important Safety Information can be accessed online at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/index-eng.php>

Any suspected adverse reaction can also be reported to:

Canada Vigilance Program, Marketed Health Products Directorate
HEALTH CANADA, Address Locator: 0701C
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K9
Tel: 613-957-0337 or Fax: 613-957-0335

To report an Adverse Reaction, consumers and health professionals may call toll free:

Tel: 866-234-2345 or Fax: 866-678-6789

CanadaVigilance@hc-sc.gc.ca

The [AR Reporting Form](#) and the [AR Guidelines](#) can be found on the Health Canada web site or in *The Canadian Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties*.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/ar-ei_form-eng.php

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/pubs/medeff/fs-if/2009-ar-ei-guide-patient/index-eng.php>

For other inquiries related to this communication, please contact Health Canada at:

Marketed Health Products Directorate

E-mail: mhpd_dpsc@hc-sc.gc.ca

Tel: (613) 954-6522

Fax: (613) 952-7738

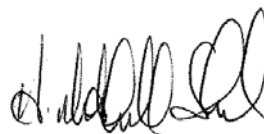
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