April 2015

Kadcyla®▼ (trastuzumab emtansine): Important changes to the packaging of Herceptin® (trastuzumab) Subcutaneous (SC) for consideration when prescribing, preparing and administering Kadcyla.

Dear Healthcare Professional,

This letter has been sent to remind you of the potential risk for confusion between Kadcyla and Herceptin due to the similarity in non-proprietary names, and to alert you to changes in Herceptin SC packaging. In order to avoid medication errors, it is important to consider these changes carefully during the prescription, preparation and administration processes.

Summary

- The naming convention for Herceptin SC has recently been updated from "Herceptin 600 mg/5 mL solution for injection" to "Herceptin 600mg solution for injection in vial"
- The packaging (both outer carton and vial label) of Herceptin SC have been updated to reflect the above change in name.
- Changes to Herceptin SC packaging have affected text only. No changes to the distinctive colouring of Herceptin SC packaging (blue and orange) have been made.
- Associated Kadcyla risk minimisation materials, including key comparison posters and guidance documents, have been updated as a result. Copies are available upon request from Roche Medical Information on +44 (0) 800 328 1629 or email at medinfo.uk@roche.com. Alternatively, please contact Cheribino Ltd on +356 21343270 or email at care@cherubino.com.mt.

Kadcyla and Herceptin are two very different products which are similar in generic name. Herceptin and Kadcyla have different active substances, indications and dosing regimens. It is important never to confuse, substitute or combine Kadcyla with or for Herceptin.

Both the invented name Kadcyla and its full non-proprietary name (trastuzumab emtansine) should be used and confirmed when prescribing, preparing and administering Kadcyla. **Always confirm against the vial label and Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) when dealing with prescriptions containing the name trastuzumab.**

Should you have any questions regarding the use of Kadcyla or Herceptin, please feel free to contact Roche Medical Information on +44 (0) 800 328 1629 or email at medinfo.uk@roche.com.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. David Harland
Country Medical Leader

▼ *This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal . Adverse events should also be reported to Roche Products Ltd. Please contact Roche Drug Safety Centre by emailing welwyn.uk_dsc@roche.com or calling +44 (0)1707 367554. For biological medicines, healthcare professionals should report adverse reactions by brand name and batch number*

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