Byron Bond
Senior Director
Trade Operations and Customer Service

Pfizer Inc
235 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017

March 18, 2013

IMPORTANT DRUG INFORMATION UPDATE

IMPORTANT DRUG WARNING

Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial

All Lots

Pfizer NDC: 0069-0112-01; NOVAPLUS® NDC: 0069-0141-01

Attention: Product Discoloration

Dear Wholesaler and Healthcare Professional,

Pfizer Inc would like to inform you that a number of vials of **Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial**, a medically necessary product used to treat Tuberculosis, may not meet the specifications for drug product potency, degradation products and impurities, in addition to description (color/appearance) arising from the drug manufacturing process. The effect of these changes to patients is not known. For example, a patient infused with affected product may receive a sub-potent dose and may experience undesired events, such as an insufficient clinical response or adverse events not previously observed with the administration of rifampin.

The affected vials exhibit a change in color from the expected red powder to a brown/black powder. This discoloration will also be apparent during the reconstitution process and in the final solution. Photographs of products that meet specification and discolored product are attached to this letter (see page 2).

Pfizer is currently investigating this matter. You are receiving this letter either because our records indicate that you may have received a shipment of **Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial** that may be affected by the issue described above or you are an infectious disease specialist who may prescribe **Rifampin for Injection USP** for patients with severe infections and who cannot take medications by mouth.

Two of the affected lots were packaged under the NOVAPLUS label (see page 5 for the listing of affected lot numbers and expiration dates for the Pfizer Injectables and NOVAPLUS lots).

Recommendations to Healthcare Professionals

Before dispensing or administering intravenous rifampin, check the vial or infusion solution to ensure that it is not discolored. The acceptable product (as dry powder in vial [A], or as reconstituted solution [B]) is shown on the left below. Do not dispense or administer a discolored rifampin product, shown on the right in [A] and [B] below.

Acceptable vial **Unacceptable discolored vial**

A

Acceptable solution **Unacceptable discolored solution**

B

The discolored product should be discarded in a manner consistent with your institution's policy or your health department's recommendation for the proper disposal of a pharmaceutical product.

It is important that this information be provided to all appropriate dispensing staff.

Reporting

As with all medical products, healthcare professionals are strongly encouraged to report any adverse events that are associated with the use of Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial and any discolored Rifampin vials either before and/or after reconstitution to Pfizer Safety (1-800-438-1985).

Adverse reactions or quality problems experienced with the use of this product may be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program online, by regular mail, or by fax.

- **Online: www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm**
- **Regular Mail: use postage-paid, pre-addressed Form FDA 3500 available at: www.fda.gov/MedWatch/getforms.htm. Mail to address on the pre-addressed form.**
- **Fax: 1-800-FDA-0178**

If you have further distributed this product to any other accounts, please communicate this information to those accounts immediately.

Recommendations to Wholesalers

It is not necessary that you return the product; but it is important that this information be provided to all appropriate dispensing staff. If you have further distributed this product to any other accounts, please communicate this information to those accounts immediately. Pfizer will reimburse your actual and reasonable costs for forwarding this letter to accounts you have shipped Rifampin for Injection USP, 600mg/vial. Please send your reimbursement claim to:

Pfizer Customer Service
ATTN: Rifampin Claims
1855 Shelby Oaks Drive North
Memphis, TN 38134

Further information regarding Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial

Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial is a medically necessary drug indicated for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis and the meningococcal carrier state (treatment of asymptomatic carriers of *Neisseria meningitidis* to eliminate meningococci from the nasopharynx).

Further information

The current Pfizer Prescribing Information is available on the Internet at the following address: http://labeling.pfizer.com/ShowLabeling.aspx?id=686. This letter is also available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.pfizer.com/products/#rifampin.

This Dear Health Care Provider letter is being made with the knowledge of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Your immediate attention and assistance are appreciated. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may have caused. If you require further information regarding this product, please contact the Pfizer Customer Service Line at 1-800-533-4535. If medical information is required on Pfizer's Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial, please contact Pfizer Medical Information at 1-800-438-1985.

Sincerely,

Byron Bond
Senior Director
Trade Operations and Customer Service
Pfizer Inc

NOVAPLUS is a registered trademark of Novation, LLC.

Affected Lot Numbers for the Pfizer and NOVAPLUS Lots - Rifampin for Injection USP, 600 mg/vial

NDC Number	Lot	Expiration
0069-0112-01	7005120	April 2013
0069-0112-01	7005121	April 2013
0069-0112-01	7005122	April 2013
0069-0112-01	7005146	May 2013
0069-0112-01	7005350	August 2013
0069-0112-01	7005351	August 2013
0069-0112-01	7005352	August 2013
0069-0112-01	7005369	August 2013
0069-0112-01	7005370	August 2013
0069-0112-01	7005421	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005422	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005423	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005426	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005427	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005428	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005430	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005431	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005435	September 2013
0069-0112-01	7005556	November 2013
0069-0112-01	7005557	November 2013
0069-0112-01	7005558	November 2013
0069-0112-01	7005951	April 2014
0069-0112-01	7005952	April 2014
0069-0112-01	7005953	April 2014
0069-0112-01	7005954	April 2014
0069-0141-01 **(NOVAPLUS Lot)**	7005947	April 2014
0069-0141-01 **(NOVAPLUS Lot)**	7005948	April 2014

RIFAMPIN FOR INJECTION, USP

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Bacteriologic cultures should be obtained before the start of therapy to confirm the susceptibility of the organism to rifampin and they should be repeated throughout therapy to monitor the response to treatment.

Tuberculosis

Rifampin is indicated in the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis. Rifampin for injection is indicated for the initial treatment and retreatment of tuberculosis when the drug cannot be taken by mouth.

Meningococcal Carriers

Rifampin is indicated for the treatment of asymptomatic carriers of *Neisseria meningitidis* to eliminate meningococci from the nasopharynx.

Rifampin is not indicated for the treatment of meningococcal infection because of the possibility of the rapid emergence of resistant organisms.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Rifampin is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to rifampin or any of the components, or to any of the rifamycins.

Rifampin is contraindicated in patients who are also receiving ritonavir-boosted saquinavir due to the increased risk of hepatocellular toxicity.

Rifampin has been shown to produce liver dysfunction. Fatalities associated with jaundice have occurred in patients with liver disease and in patients taking rifampin with other hepatotoxic agents. Patients with impaired liver function should be given rifampin only in cases of necessity and then with caution and under strict medical supervision.

Rifampin should be used with caution in patients with a history of Diabetes Mellitus, as diabetes management may be more difficult.

Rifampin for Injection: **For intravenous infusion only. Must not be administered by intramuscular or subcutaneous route.**

Patients should be counseled that antibacterial drugs including rifampin should only be used to treat bacterial infections.

The patient should be told that rifampin may produce a reddish coloration of the urine, sweat, sputum, and tears, and the patient should be forewarned of this.

Rifampin is known to induce certain cytochrome P-450 enzymes.

Important Safety Information continues on next page.

Important Safety Information (continued)

When rifampin is given concomitantly with halothane or isoniazide, the potential for hepatotoxicity is increased.

There are no known human data on long-term potential for carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, or impaired fertility.

Teratogenic Effects-Category C

Rifampin has been shown to be teratogenic in rodents given oral doses of rifampin 15 to 25 times the human dose. Rifampin should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

When administered during the last few weeks of pregnancy, rifampin can cause post-natal hemorrhages in the mother and infant for which treatment with vitamin K may be indicated.

Because of the potential for tumorigenicity shown for rifampin in animal studies, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Caution should be observed in using rifampin in elderly patients.

Heartburn, epigastric distress, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, jaundice, flatulence, cramps and diarrhea have been noted in some patients.

Transient abnormalities in liver function tests (e.g., elevations in serum bilirubin, BSP, alkaline phosphatase, serum transaminases) have been observed.

Thrombocytopenia has occurred primarily with high dose intermittent therapy, but has also been noted after resumption of interrupted treatment. Leukopenia, hemolytic anemia, and decreased hemoglobin have been observed.

Headache, fever, drowsiness, fatigue, ataxia, dizziness, inability to concentrate, mental confusion, behavioral changes, muscular weakness, pains in extremities, and generalized numbness have been observed.

Elevations in BUN and serum uric acid have been reported.

Edema of the face and extremities has been reported.

STERICYCLE
(800) 668-4391
2670 EXECUTIVE DR SUITE A
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46241

LTR 1 OF 1

SHIP TO:
WHOLESALER/HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
N/A
ANY BUSINESS NAME
ANY STREET

ANY CITY XX 12345

NY 122 9-02

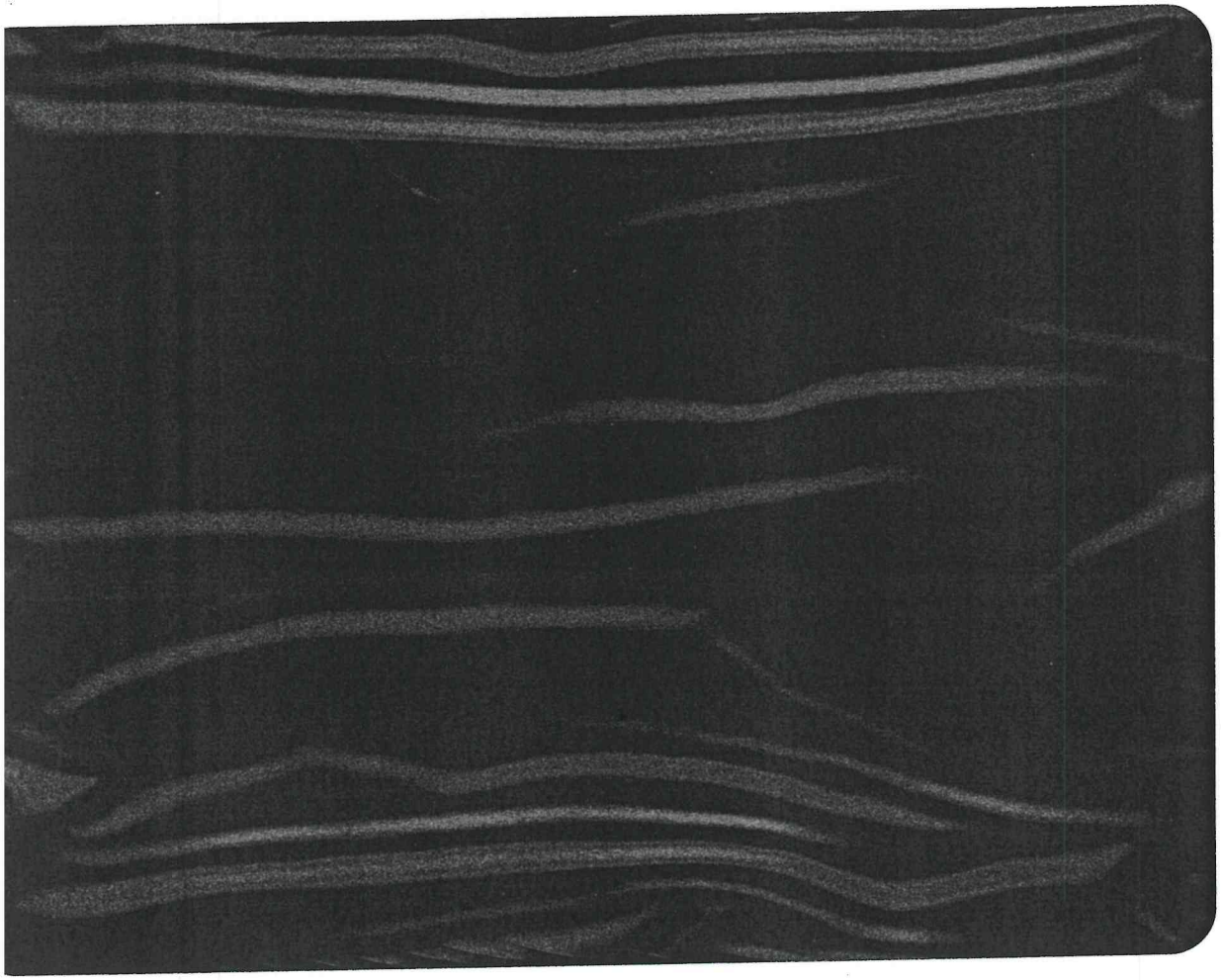
UPS GROUND

TRACKING: 1Z A0Y 770 03 3879 1019

SAMPLE

BILLING: P/P

N42062479D8201-1

URC36.5A 01/2013

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