

Public Health Link

from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution:	As Appendix 2
From:	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans
Date:	25 April 2019
Reference:	CEM/CPhA/2019/10
Category:	Class 4 - For Information
Title:	DRUG ALERT CLASS 4 FOR INFORMATION, PFIZER LIMITED, ATIVAN 4MG/ML SOLUTION FOR INJECTION
For Action by:	Dispensing GPs - please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Hospital pharmacies
For Information:	See Annex 2 – Distribution List
What is this about:	Full details are set out below.
Why has it been sent:	For your information, action and to pass on to colleagues.

Issue:

The text on the carton label has recently been updated and the product description states 10 x 2ml, which reflects the size of the ampoules. The concentration and total volume of the ampoules remains 4mg Lorazepam in 1ml however.

We understand that this product is used in hospitals and is unlikely to be used in General Practice or Community Pharmacy. Please do not send this communication to Community Pharmacists or to GPs unless they are known to use the product outside the hospital setting.

Appendix 1

- To: Chief Executives of Health Boards and NHS Trusts
- To: Medical Directors of Health Boards
- To: Nurse Directors Health Boards
- To: Directors of Public Health
- To: Hospital Principals and Chief Pharmacists to action as per alert

To: **NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:**

All General practitioners - please ensure this message is seen by all practice nurses and non-principals working in your practice and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'.

All Community Pharmacists

Deputising services

HB Prescribing Advisers

Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales



DRUG ALERT

CLASS 4 MEDICINES DEFECT INFORMATION

Caution in Use
Distribute to Hospital Pharmacy Level

Date: 24 April 2019

EL (19)A/10

Our Ref: MDR 57-04/19

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Pfizer Limited

Ativan 4mg/1ml Solution for injection
(Lorazepam)

PL 00057/1279

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
4091	Oct 2019	10 x 1ml	15 Apr 2019
4092	Dec 2019	10 x 1ml	10 Apr 2019
4094	Dec 2019	10 x 1ml	NA

Pfizer Limited has informed us that the text on the carton label for the above product has recently been updated and at this time, the product description on the carton was changed from 10 x 1ml ampoules to 10 x 2ml ampoules. The updated text reflects the size of the ampoules, which is 2ml. **The concentration and total volume of the ampoules has not changed and remains 4mg Lorazepam in 1ml of solution.**

The size of the ampoules (2ml) has not changed and the label on the ampoules remains unchanged and states '4mg in 1ml'.

We understand that the carton label is in the process of being revised to reflect the volume of solution contained in the ampoules and batches with the revised labels are expected to become available during Q3 2019.

Further Information

For further information, please contact Pfizer Medical Information, tel: 01304 616161.

Recipients of this Drug Alert should bring it to the attention of relevant contacts by copy of this letter.

Yours faithfully

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