

# Public Health Link

from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

<b>Distribution:</b>	As Appendix 2
<b>From:</b>	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans
<b>Date:</b>	6 November 2019
<b>Reference:</b>	CEM/CPhA/2019/32
<b>Category:</b>	Class 2: Action With 48 Hours
<b>Title:</b>	Class 2 Drug Alert, Action Within 48 Hours, M & A Pharmachem Limited, Paracetamol 500mg Tablets, 1 X 1000
<b>For Action by:</b>	<p>Dispensing General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'</p> <p>Community Pharmacists</p> <p>Hospital pharmacies</p> <p>Chief Pharmacists</p>
<b>For Information:</b>	See Annex 2 – Distribution List
<b>What is this about:</b>	Full details are set out below.
<b>Why has it been sent:</b>	For your information, action and to pass on to colleagues.

## Issue:

M & A Pharmachem is recalling specific batches of Paracetamol 500mg Tablets (1x1000) because a small number of pots from some batches have been found to contain discoloured tablets due to fungal contamination. The fungus has been identified as *Penicillium citrinum*. It is unlikely that any affected tablets will have got to patient level as the discolouration is noticeable on opening affected packs.

Full details of the drug alert are included in the attached PDF file. Please forward to listed recipients. This information is also published on the MHRA website <https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts>.

## 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:**

Dispensing General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'

Community Pharmacists

Deputising services

HB Prescribing Advisers

Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales



# DRUG ALERT

## CLASS 2 MEDICINES RECALL

Action Within 48 Hours  
Pharmacy and Wholesaler Level Recall

Date: 05 November 2019

EL(19)A/32

Our Ref: MDR 94-10/19

Dear Healthcare Professional,

**M & A Pharmachem Limited**

**Paracetamol 500mg Tablets, 1 x 1000**

**PL 04077/0001**

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
0014	04/2022	1 x 1000	28/09/2017
0032	07/2022	1 x 1000	10/10/2017
0033	07/2022	1 x 1000	19/10/2017
0036	07/2022	1 x 1000	02/11/2017
0040	07/2022	1 x 1000	16/11/2017
0041	07/2022	1 x 1000	22/11/2017
0043	07/2022	1 x 1000	05/12/2017
0045	08/2022	1 x 1000	12/12/2017
0046	08/2022	1 x 1000	03/01/2018
0049	08/2022	1 x 1000	24/01/2018
0050	08/2022	1 x 1000	07/02/2018
0053	08/2022	1 x 1000	15/02/2018
0054	08/2022	1 x 1000	23/02/2018
0057	08/2022	1 x 1000	09/03/2018
0060	08/2022	1 x 1000	28/03/2018
0062	09/2022	1 x 1000	13/04/2018
0065	09/2022	1 x 1000	23/04/2018
0067	09/2022	1 x 1000	30/04/2018
0070	09/2022	1 x 1000	30/04/2018
0071	09/2022	1 x 1000	17/05/2018
0073	09/2022	1 x 1000	24/05/2018
0074	09/2022	1 x 1000	07/06/2018
0075	09/2022	1 x 1000	21/06/2018
0078	12/2022	1 x 1000	05/07/2018
0089	12/2022	1 x 1000	23/07/2018
0098	01/2023	1 x 1000	02/08/2018
0100	04/2023	1 x 1000	13/08/2018
0101	04/2023	1 x 1000	17/08/2018
0102	04/2023	1 x 1000	11/09/2018
0105	04/2023	1 x 1000	02/10/2018
0117	04/2023	1 x 1000	12/10/2018
0119	06/2023	1 x 1000	29/10/2018
0123	06/2023	1 x 1000	12/11/2018
0131	07/2023	1 x 1000	23/11/2018



0133	07/2023	1 x 1000	06/12/2018
0140	07/2023	1 x 1000	14/12/2018
0141	07/2023	1 x 1000	20/12/2018
0158	10/2023	1 x 1000	31/01/2018
0159	10/2023	1 x 1000	11/02/2019
0173	10/2023	1 x 1000	22/02/2019

### Brief description of the problem

M & A Pharmachem is recalling the above batches as a precautionary measure, because a small number of pots from some batches have been found to contain discoloured tablets due to fungal contamination. The fungus has been identified as *Penicillium citrinum*. It is unlikely that any affected tablets will have got to patient level as the discolouration is noticeable on opening affected packs.

### Advice for healthcare professionals

Stop supplying the batches listed above immediately. Quarantine all remaining stock and return it to your supplier using your supplier's approved process.

### Company contacts for further information

For stock enquiries, please contact Pauline Caddick, Responsible Person:  
[pcaddick@mapharmachem.co.uk](mailto:pcaddick@mapharmachem.co.uk)

For medical Information enquiries, please contact Cristina Parau, Pharmacovigilance Manager  
[cparau@mapharmachem.co.uk](mailto:cparau@mapharmachem.co.uk)

Recipients of this Drug Alert should bring it to the attention of relevant contacts by copy of this letter. NHS Regional teams are asked to forward this to relevant clinics, general practitioners and community pharmacists.

Yours faithfully

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