

Public Health Link

from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution:	As Appendix 2
From:	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans
Date:	27 November 2019
Reference:	CEM/CPhA/2019/38
Category:	Class 2: Action With 48 Hours
Title:	Class 2 Drug Alert, Action Within 48 Hours, M & A Pharmachem Limited, Paracetamol 500mg Tablets, 1 X 1000
For Action by:	<p>Dispensing General Practitioners – Ensure all working in your dispensary see this alert and a copy is held on your locum file – Action as below.</p> <p>Community Pharmacies – Action as below</p> <p>Hospital pharmacies – Action as below.</p> <p>Chief Pharmacists - Action as below.</p>
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:

M & A Pharmachem is recalling all unexpired 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 – Ensure all working in your dispensary see this alert and a copy is held on your locum file.

Community Pharmacies

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: 27 November 2019

EL(19)A/38

Our Ref: MDR 94-10/19

Dear Healthcare Professional,

M & A Pharmachem Limited

Paracetamol 500mg Tablets, 1 x 1000

PL 04077/0001

Brief description of the problem

M & A Pharmachem is recalling all unexpired 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 above product 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

For medical Information enquiries, please contact Cristina Parau, Pharmacovigilance Manager
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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