Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Ref: 03/2023/PLD
21 April 2023

SIMULECT ® (basiliximab): Do not use WFI ampoules co-packed with vials of sterile freeze-dried powder of Simulect 10mg and 20mg

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Novartis in agreement with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Malta Medicines Authority would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Particles have been found in some ampoules of water for injection (WFI) that are co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials. The particles are intrinsic and do not affect the vials of Simulect.**
- **WFI ampoules co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials must therefore not be used to reconstitute Simulect powder. This applies also to any already distributed pack of Simulect co-packed with an affected WFI ampoule to any department within hospitals.**
- **The reconstitution must be performed with a new unimpacted (not co-packed) ampoule by the pharmacy or the hospital department prior to administration to the patient. WFI (Water for Injections compliant with European Pharmacopoeia, without any additives) from another source must be used instead.**
- **Novartis is confident about the quality of vials containing Simulect powder (the vials comply fully with specifications) and that they can be administered without any associated risk by using an alternative WFI source (Water for Injections compliant with European Pharmacopoeia, without any additives).**
- **Health Care Professionals must discard the impacted WFI ampoules co-packed with impacted batches of Simulect (listed in Table 1) at the time of opening the pack, and send Novartis the confirmation, including the number of discarded ampoules, to assure reconciliation.**

Background Information

Simulect is indicated for the prophylaxis of acute organ rejection in *de novo* allogeneic renal transplantation in adult and paediatric patients (1-17 years). It is to be used concomitantly with ciclosporin for microemulsion- and corticosteroid-based immunosuppression, in patients with panel reactive antibodies less than 80%, or in a triple maintenance immunosuppressive regimen containing ciclosporin for microemulsion, corticosteroids and either azathioprine or mycophenolate mofetil.

In the course of an ongoing investigation, Novartis identified the potential presence of intrinsic particles in WFI ampoules co-packed with marketed Simulect product (see figure 1). The two identified impacted batches of WFI (M2139 and M0797) were co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials into finished product batches distributed by Novartis (impacted batches of Simulect of EU countries and Norway are listed in table 1). Novartis therefore requests you not to use the WFI ampoules co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials but to use WFI ampoules (Water for Injections compliant with European Pharmacopoeia, without any additives) from another source.

Table 1.

Simulect batches co-packed with WFI Batch M2139

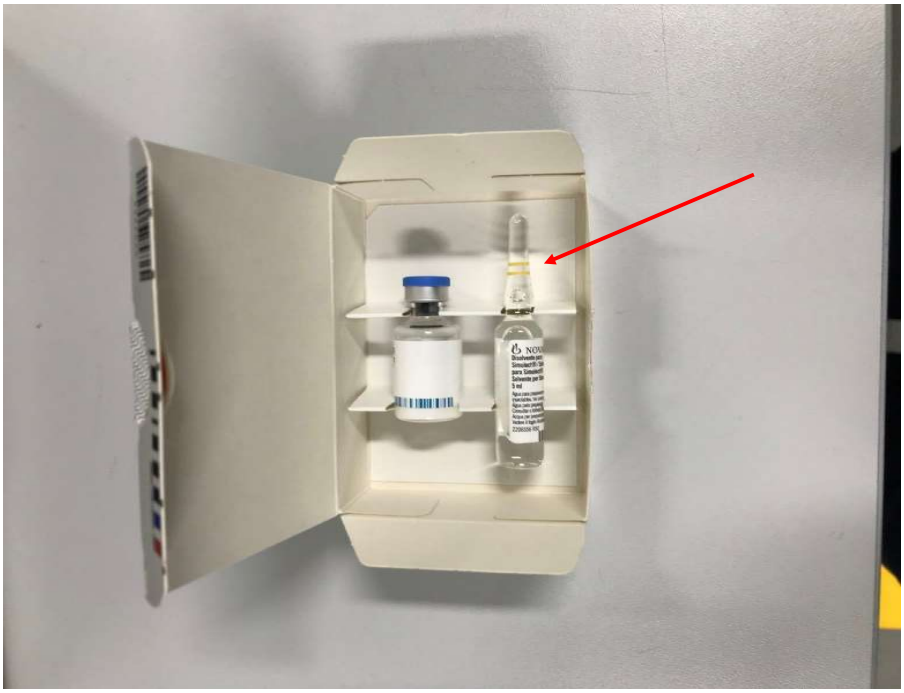
Material	Batch	Country
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 AT	SHRV4	Austria
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BE	SHTR6	Belgium
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BG	SHUH3	Bulgaria
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 HR	SHTR7	Croatia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 HR	SJCA1	Croatia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R29	SHYM6	Cyprus
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R47	SHYM5	Czechia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 FRH	SHRV7	France
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 FRH	SHWE1	France
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 DE	SHXJ4	Germany
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 DE	SHWC2	Germany
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 DE	SHTU9	Germany
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89	SHRN9	Ireland
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ITH	SHTC7	Italy
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL	SHRN8	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL	SHVJ6	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 NL	SHTU8	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 NL	SHXU9	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 R43	SHTR9	Norway
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PL	SHXJ1	Poland
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PL	SHTR8	Poland
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT	SHTJ3	Portugal
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT	SHWE7	Portugal
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R47	SHTV1	Slovakia, Czechia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 SI	SHTJ2	Slovenia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ES	SHXX1	Spain

Simulect batches co-packed with WFI Batch M0797

Material Short Text	Batch	Country
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 AT	SFUR6	Austria
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BE	SFUJ4	Belgium
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BE	SHJR9	Belgium
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BG	SFWD9	Bulgaria
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BG	SHFV8	Bulgaria
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R47	SHDD4	Czechia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 R43	SHMC6	Denmark
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 FRH	SFYM5	France
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 FRH	SHDL4	France
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 FRH	SHFH8	France
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 DE	SHHD3	Germany
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 DE	SHET4	Germany
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R29	SHMM1	Greece
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 HU	SHDD3	Hungary
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89	SHLR4	Ireland, Malta
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89	SHDM5	Ireland, Malta
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89	SHFV1	Ireland, United Kingdom
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ITH	SFUJ3	Italy
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ITH	SHFV6	Italy
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R07\WST	SHPD1	Latvia
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL	SFXV4	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL	SHJV8	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 NL	SFXJ2	Netherlands
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PL	SFXV7	Poland
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT	SHDD2	Portugal
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT	SHJV7	Portugal
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 RO	SHFV7	Romania
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 RO	SFYL9	Romania
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ES	SHDD5	Spain
SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ES	SHFX7	Spain

To date, no cases have been retrieved with either quality complaints or any adverse events with the impacted batches from the Novartis global safety database.

Figure 1: Presentation of impacted WFI ampoule co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials (ampoule pointed with red arrow).



Potential risk associated

Glass particles provisionally identified as small (up to 800 µm) glass fragments were identified in WFI for the impacted batches in the course of the ongoing investigation.

Actions to be taken by Health Care Professionals

1. Health Care Professionals can continue to safely administer the impacted Simulect batches listed in the table 1 provided the WFI co-packed with the product is **not used** to reconstitute Simulect powder. A WFI ampoule from an alternative source, that complies with European Pharmacopoeia requirements for Water for Injections without any additives, must be used instead.

2. Health Care Professionals must discard the impacted WFI ampoules co-packed with impacted batches of Simulect (listed in table 1) at the time of opening the pack, and send Novartis the confirmation, including the number of discarded ampoules, to assure reconciliation (please refer to Annex 1).

3. Health Care Professionals are requested to provide Novartis with the currently available quantity of the Simulect batches listed in Table 1 at their premises.

4. If other facilities or departments within a hospital or clinic use this product, a copy of this information should be forwarded to them.

5. Healthcare professionals should complete the enclosed Customer Reply Form (Annex 1) and return it to Novartis by emailing it into the mailbox, novartis.malta@novartis.com as indicated, **within 1 working day**. Returning the customer reply form promptly will confirm receipt of this notification and prevent from receiving repeat notices.

Call for reporting

Please kindly report any quality problem or any adverse event associated with this product as per normal established processes.

Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (side effects) and medication errors may be reported using the Medicines Authority ADR reporting form, which is available online at http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal and sent by post or email to;

P: Pharmacovigilance Section at Post-Licensing Directorate, Medicines Authority, Sir Temi Żammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann. SĠN 3000.

E: postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt.

Healthcare Professionals may also report any adverse events associated with the use of Novartis products to Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Representative Office, Malta, by phone on +356 21222872, online on www.novartis.com/report or by e-mail at drug_safety.malta@novartis.com.

Company Contact Point

Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Representative Office, Malta, by phone on +356 21222872 or by email to novartis.malta@novartis.com

Yours faithfully,

Post-Licensing Directorate
Medicines Authority

Disclaimer
This Direct Healthcare Professional Communication has been submitted to you on behalf of Novartis.

The MMA receives the relevant contact details from both the Medical Council and the Pharmacy Council. Should you wish to amend your details including address, you are asked to contact the Medical Council or Pharmacy Council directly, as may apply.

Annex

Annex 1 - Simulect WFI Customer Reply Form

CUSTOMER REPLY FORM

07 April 2023

Product	Batch Number	Associated lot number of WFI 5 ampoules	Quantity (available number of Simulect packs.)	Expiration Date	Number of discarded ampoules (to be filled later)
Simulect 20 mg vial					
Simulect 10 mg vial					

Please complete and sign this form within 1 working day. Email a scanned copy to **novartis.malta@novartis.com** as a confirmation that you have received this notification. A cover sheet is not required.

Please note that ***NOVARTIS CANNOT PROCESS UNSIGNED FORMS.***

Completed By: _____ **Title:** _____
Print Name

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Your signature above indicates your understanding of the contents of the attached letter and that you performed the actions outlined and disseminated this information, if applicable.