SUBJECT: DIRECT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

Ferring Ireland Limited
United Drug Distributors
Magna Drive
Magna Business Park
Citywest Road
Dublin 24, Ireland

02 May 2023

Menopur® (menotropins' for injection) – Quality Defect leading to Supply Shortage

MA 1314/00701 - MENOPUR 75 IU Powder and Solvent for Solution for Injection

MA 1314/00702 - MENOPUR 600 IU Solution for Injection in a Pre-filled Pen

MA 1314/00703 - MENOPUR 1200 IU Solution for Injection in a Pre-filled Pen

Dear Healthcare Professional,

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

Summary

- **In October 2022, Ferring suspended all shipments of Menopur (all presentations). This was a precautionary measure after the company had been made aware of unapproved changes in the manufacturing process of the drug substance of Menopur. This led to a shortage of the medicine which may continue through 2023-2024 in some EU countries.**
- **Ferring is working with National Health Authorities in countries where the product is marketed to obtain the necessary approvals and resume supply.**
- **The data available to date do not indicate any immediate safety issue due to the changes in the manufacturing process.**
- **In view of the lack of alternatives in several EU Member States and the potential for shortages, batches of Menopur manufactured with unapproved changes will remain on the market in Malta.**

Background

Menopur is indicated for the treatment of infertility in the following clinical situations:

- Anovulation, including polycystic ovarian disease (PCOD), in women who have been unresponsive to treatment with clomiphene citrate (CC)
- Controlled ovarian hyperstimulation (COH) to induce the development of multiple follicles for assisted reproductive technologies (ART) (e.g. in vitro fertilisation/embryo transfer (IVF/ET), gamete intra-fallopian transfer (GIFT) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI))

Menopur is a highly purified menotropin (Menotropin HP) and contains follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) and lutenising hormone (LH) activity in a 1:1 ratio. Menotropin HP induces ovarian follicular growth and development as well as gonadal steroid production in women who do not have primary ovarian failure.

Ferring was made aware of unapproved changes made in the manufacturing process of the drug substance for Menopur. As a precautionary measure, Ferring suspended all shipments of Menopur in October 2022, and the manufacturing at the drug substance supplier was paused for a period of time. The changes include balancing of FSH-LH activity with the addition of highly purified human Chorionic Gonadotropin (hCG). hCG is a naturally occurring hormone which is present in Menopur and contributes to the overall LH activity. The added hCG is the drug substance in Ferring's hCG product (CHORAPUR®/BREVACTID®) licensed in some European countries. Ferring is now working with National Health Authorities in countries where the product is marketed to assess and document the manufacturing changes and update the regulatory file. As a consequence of the pause in manufacturing and validation steps required for regulatory update, a market shortage of Menopur has occurred. While delivery of Menopur products in some countries has resumed, or is expected to resume in the first half of 2023, shortages are expected to continue throughout 2023 and 2024. Menopur may be out of stock in some countries during this time.

The data available to date do not indicate any immediate safety issue due to the changes in the manufacturing process.

Patients may however still be impacted by shortages of Menopur supply; Ferring continues to work with National Health Authorities to assess and document these changes and resume supply. Individual treatment decisions should be made by healthcare providers. Clinics and patients should check with their preferred pharmacy to confirm they have Menopur availability before initiating treatment. Alternatives to Menopur are available; should a shortage of Menopur occur during treatment, the treating health care professional should evaluate options for further continuation of therapy.

Call for reporting

Please report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of menotrophin to the Malta Medicine Authority using the Medicines Authority ADR reporting form, which is available online at http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal

These should also be 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

Company contact point

Suspected MENOPUR adverse reactions may also be reported to Ferring using email: EnquiriesIrelandMailbox@Ferring.com

You can also include EJ Busuttil email use: rp@ejbusuttil.com

For further information, please contact Medical Information at Ferring Ireland Limited, United Drug Distributors, Magna Drive, Magna Business Park, Citywest Road, Dublin 24, Ireland. Phone +353 (0) 86 048 3100 during business hours or +44 (0) 800 111 4126.

Yours sincerely,

Nassima Bekkat-Berkani
Nassima Bekkat-Berkani (Apr 27, 2023 15:37 GMT+1)

Nassima Bekkat-Berkani
Medical Director
Ferring UK and Ireland