21 Dec 2023

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Leqvio (inclisiran) 284 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe: Important information regarding instructions for use before injection

Novartis Europharm Limited in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Malta Medicines Authority, would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- Novartis has received a small number of complaints associated with difficulty moving the syringe plunger resulting in the inability to inject Leqvio. The issue occurs infrequently in the European Union (~ 0.01%).
- To ensure optimal use of Leqvio for patients and healthcare professionals while technical solutions to alleviate this issue are investigated, Novartis wants to share important information before injecting Leqvio.
- **Do not remove the needle cap until you are ready to inject, as in rare cases, early removal of the needle cap prior to injection can lead to drying of the drug product within the needle, which can result in needle clogging.**
- **If following insertion of the needle you cannot depress the plunger, use a new pre-filled syringe. Novartis will provide a replacement for any impacted Leqvio syringes. For product replacement, see Annex 1 below for instructions.**
- The reviewed data confirms that there is no clinically relevant risk to patient safety.

Background – Labelling Guidance

Leqvio is indicated in adults with primary hypercholesterolaemia (heterozygous familial and non-familial) or mixed dyslipidaemia, as an adjunct to diet:

- in combination with a statin or statin with other lipid-lowering therapies in patients unable to reach LDL-C goals with the maximum tolerated dose of a statin, or;
- alone or in combination with other lipid-lowering therapies in patients who are statin-intolerant, or for whom a statin is contraindicated.

The recommended dose is 284 mg inclisiran administered as a single subcutaneous injection: initially, again at 3 months, followed by every 6 months. Leqvio is available in two presentations in the EU. Both are intended for administration by a healthcare professional only:

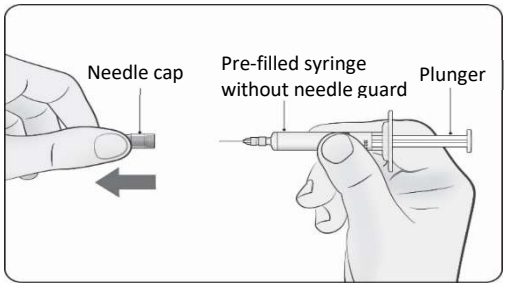
- a "pre-filled syringe" (without needle guard) which does not contain an Instruction for Use (IFU) and;
- a "pre-filled syringe with needle guard" which includes an IFU with detailed instructions on the procedure for use, including activation of the safety mechanism and an instruction not to remove the needle cap until the user is ready to inject.

<u>Novartis wants to emphasize important information before injecting Leqvio:</u>

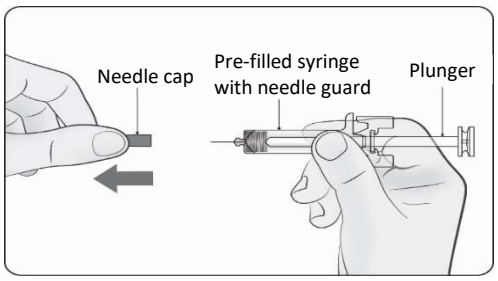
Do not remove the needle cap until you are ready to inject.

This important information is already included in the IFU for the Leqvio pre-filled syringe with needle guard. Novartis will introduce an IFU for the Leqvio pre-filled syringe (without needle guard) to provide this important instruction consistently for both presentations in product labelling.

Pre-filled syringe "without" needle guard:



Pre-filled syringe "with" needle guard:



Please also note that:

- **If following insertion of the needle you cannot depress the plunger, use a new pre-filled syringe. Novartis will provide a replacement for any impacted Leqvio syringes. For product replacement, please see Annex 1 below for instructions.**
- The reviewed data confirm that there is no clinically relevant risk to patient safety.

Call for Reporting

Healthcare professionals should report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of Leqvio in accordance with the national spontaneous reporting system for Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs). Report forms can be downloaded from www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal and posted to Malta Medicines Authority Post-licensing, Sir Temi Zammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann SĠN 3000, or sent by email to: postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt. Please report the product name and relevant details.

Adverse events may also be reported 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

Company	Product Name	Email	Phone
Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Representative Office, Malta	Leqvio (inclisiran)	novartis.malta@novartis.com	+356 21222872

Yours sincerely,

Post-Licensing Directorate
Medicines Authority

Disclaimer
This Direct Healthcare Professional Communication has been submitted to you on behalf of Novartis Pharma Services Inc.
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 1: Replacement Directions
Novartis will provide a replacement for any impacted Leqvio syringes. For product replacement, please contact: Dr. Kristina Schiavone, PhD, Customer Engagement Lead: +35699819981 / kristina.schiavone@novartis.com
Or: Novartis Pharma Services Inc., Representative Office, Malta, by phone on +356 21222872 or by email to novartis.malta@novartis.com