

IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO:

1. Directors of Pharmacy
2. Chief Pharmacists, NHS Boards
3. Hospital Pharmacy Managers
4. Medical Directors NHS Boards
5. Chief Executives NHS Boards

Dear Healthcare Professional,

**DRUG ALERTS NO 29 – CLASS 2**

Please find attached revised drug safety information from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for onward transmission (see list below).

1. Please could Directors of Pharmacy forward this alert to:-
  - Community Pharmacists
  - Hospital pharmacists
  - Chief Pharmacists to forward on to Medicines Information Pharmacists
2. Please could Medical Directors forward the message on to :-
  - General Practitioners
  - Dispensing Doctors
  - Relevant Clinics
  - Chief Executives NHS Boards

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

IRENE FAZAKERLEY  
Pharmacy Division

\* NB: Drug alerts have the following classifications:

1. Action now (including out-of-hours);
2. Action within 48 hours;
3. Action within 5 days;
4. Caution in use



**Safeguarding public health**

**Defective Medicines Report Centre  
Market Towers  
1 Nine Elms Lane  
London  
SW8 5NQ  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7084 2574**

**Fax: +44 (0)20 7084 2676**

**DRUG ALERT**

**CLASS 2 MEDICINES RECALL**

**Action Within 48 Hours**

**PHARMACY OR EQUIVALENT LEVEL RECALL**

Date: 16 November 2009

EL (09)A/29

Our Ref: MDR 23-11/09

Dear Healthcare Professional,

**Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) Ltd**

<b>Gaviscon Advance Peppermint Flavour</b>	<b>PL 0063/0103</b>
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**Oral suspension containing sodium alginate 500mg  
and potassium bicarbonate 100mg in 5ml**

<b>Batch Number</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>	<b>First Distributed</b>
924471	1/08/2011	500 ml bottle	19/09/2009
925071	1/09/2011	500 ml bottle	19/09/2009

Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) Ltd are recalling the above lots due to a low level microbial contamination detected in one of the batches. The contamination causes spoilage of the product and a phenolic or antiseptic smell. The product should smell of peppermint.

The microbial contamination is not likely to be harmful to normally healthy consumers. However, if this product is being used by patients with suppressed immune systems, such as patients on chemotherapy, the risk of infection and other adverse reactions cannot be ruled out. General Practitioners or Pharmacists receiving enquiries from such patients are requested to give professional advice and refer to the responsible treatment centre where necessary.

Contd/.....

**MHRA Distribution:**

Regional Contacts for NHS Trusts and Provider Units  
Chief Pharmacists: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland  
Prison Health Policy Unit (DH)  
Chief Pharmacists: Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Isle of Man, Gibraltar  
Special Hospitals  
Healthcare Commission for distribution to Independent Health Care Establishments  
Primary Care Trusts (England)

**Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency**  
Market Towers 1 Nine Elms Lane London SW8 5NQ  
T 020 7084 2000 F 020 7084 2353 www.mhra.gov.uk

**An executive agency of the Department of Health**

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A low percentage of bottles in Batch No. 924471 are known to be affected. Although no bottles in Batch No. 925071 have been reported as defective, the marketing authorisation holder wishes to recall this batch as a precautionary measure, whilst the causes are being investigated

For Medical Information enquiries, please call 0500 455 456.

For all queries relating to stock return please contact your Wholesaler or if you are a Wholesaler, please contact Reckitt Benckiser Customer Services on 01482 582777.

Recipients of this Drug Alert should bring it to the attention of relevant contacts by copy of this letter. Primary Care Trusts are asked to forward this to relevant clinics and to General Practitioners and Community Pharmacists for information.

Yours faithfully

Ian Holloway  
MHRA DMRC Manager