



10 December 2012

**Direct Healthcare Professional Communication on the risk of hepatic disorders associated with Revlimid® (lenalidomide) use, in the context of other risk factors.**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Celgene, in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency wishes to inform you about important safety information following a recent review of Revlimid® (lenalidomide).

**Summary**

- In multiple myeloma patients treated with lenalidomide in combination with dexamethasone, some severe cases of liver injuries, including fatal cases, have been reported: acute hepatic failure, toxic hepatitis, cytolytic hepatitis, cholestatic hepatitis and mixed cytolytic/cholestatic hepatitis.
- Lenalidomide is excreted by the kidneys. It is important to adjust the dose of lenalidomide in patients with renal impairment to avoid high plasma levels which may increase the risk of more severe haematological side effects or hepatotoxicity.
- The mechanisms of severe drug-induced hepatotoxicity remain unknown and risk factors might be pre-existing viral liver disease, elevated baseline liver-enzymes, and possibly treatment with antibiotics.
- Monitoring of liver function is recommended, particularly when there is a history of, or concurrent, viral liver infection or when lenalidomide is combined with medications known to be associated with liver dysfunction such as paracetamol.

**Additional information on hepatic disorder events**

A safety review of hepatic disorders in the Celgene Pharmacovigilance database as of 26 December 2011, noted an overall reporting rate of 0.67% for hepatic disorders in the patient population exposed to lenalidomide. These reports were mostly of liver-related investigations, signs and symptoms. The reporting rate of hepatic failure, fibrosis and cirrhosis, cholestasis and jaundice as well as non-infectious hepatitis was low. There were a few cases with a fatal outcome and most were complicated by advanced malignant disease, previous or active liver disease, and multiple co-morbidities. The mechanisms involved in the physiopathology remain unknown but a causal relationship between lenalidomide and hepatic disorders cannot be excluded

Co-morbid conditions and other risk factors that may have contributed to the hepatic disorders include a history of hepatic and renal disorders or concurrent liver infection, or concomitant medications known to cause severe liver dysfunction such as paracetamol.

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The revised summary of product characteristics has been agreed with the EU Competent Authorities.

## **Call for reporting**

Please report suspected adverse reactions with any medicine or vaccine to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme online at [www.yellowcard.gov.uk](http://www.yellowcard.gov.uk).

Alternatively, prepaid Yellow Cards for reporting are available:

- upon request by mail: "FREEPOST YELLOW CARD"
- at the back of the British National Formulary (BNF)
- by telephoning the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) free phone line: 0800-731-6789
- or by electronic download through the MHRA website (<http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/downloads/>)

When reporting please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medication, onset and treatment dates.

Adverse reactions associated with the use of Revlimid may also be reported to Celgene:

Celgene Drug Safety  
Celgene Ltd  
1 Longwalk Road  
Stockley Park  
Uxbridge  
UB11 1DB

Telephone: 0808 238 9908  
Fax: 0844 801 0468  
Email: [drugsafetyuk@celgene.com](mailto:drugsafetyuk@celgene.com)

## **Communication information**

If you have any further questions or require further information, please contact Celgene Medical Information as below:

Telephone: 0844 801 0045  
Fax: 0844 801 0046  
E-mail: <mailto:medinfo.uk.ire@celgene.com> [medinfo.uk.ire@celgene.com](mailto:medinfo.uk.ire@celgene.com)

Yours faithfully,



Dr David P. Gillen  
Medical Director, UK and Ireland  
Celgene Limited

## **Annexes:**

Tracked-change copy of the Revlimid® (lenalidomide) Summary of Product Characteristics