15th December 2016

Ammonaps (sodium phenylbutyrate) tablets and granules should only be used when there is no alternative treatment

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum International AB (Sobi), in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- The manufacturing site of Ammonaps (sodium phenylbutyrate) was found to have several shortcomings in relation to good manufacturing practice (GMP). There is no indication of risk to patients and corrective measures are being taken to address the shortcomings.
- While the measures are being implemented, Ammonaps tablets and granules should, as a precaution, now only be used in patients when other sodium or glycerol phenylbutyrate-containing medicines cannot be used instead.
- If the alternative phenylbutyrate medicine is not suitable for patients with nasogastric tube or gastrostomy, Ammonaps granules can continue to be used in these patients.

Further information on the recommendations

The recommendations result from a review into shortcomings of manufacturing practice at Pharmaceutics International Inc. These relate to risk of cross-contamination between medicines manufactured at the same site, and deficiencies in the systems for maintaining quality assurance.

The recommendations are precautionary; to date no evidence of a specific adverse effect resulting from the GMP issues has been identified.

The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency considers that Ammonaps 500mg tablets and 940mg/g granules are critical for patients. Therefore, Ammonaps 500mg tablets and 940mg/g granules will be available in the UK.

Further information on the review can be accessed at:
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/human/referrals/Pharmaceutics_International/human_referral_000406.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac05805c516f

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Further information on Ammonaps
Ammonaps (sodium phenylbutyrate) is indicated for use as adjunctive therapy in the chronic management of urea cycle disorders, involving deficiency of carbamylphosphate synthetase, ornithine transcarbamylase or argininosuccinate synthetase.

It is indicated in all patients with *neonatal-onset* presentation of urea cycle disorder (complete enzyme deficiencies, presenting within the first 28 days of life). It is also indicated in patients with *late-onset* disease (partial enzyme deficiencies, presenting after the first month of life) who have a history of hyperammonaemic encephalopathy.

Call for reporting
Suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to Ammonaps should be reported to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme.

It is easiest and quickest to report ADRs online via the Yellow Card website - https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/.

Alternatively, prepaid Yellow Cards for reporting are available:

- by writing to FREEPOST YELLOW CARD (no other address details necessary)
- by emailing yellowcard@mhra.gsi.gov.uk
- 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 downloading and printing a form

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

Company contact point
Company contact point in your country is Shaw Sorooshian, Medical Director in your local Sobi office, telephone number +44 (1)223 891854. You can also send an email to medical.info@sobi.com. Our web site is www.sobi.com.

Annexes
There are no Annexes.
Product Information has not been revised.

Yours sincerely

Shaw Sorooshian
Medical Director

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