Bristol Myers Squibb™

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND PATIENTS

September 2022

NULOJIX (belatacept): Risk of medication errors due to change in maintenance dose from 5 mg/kg to 6 mg/kg for the United Kingdom (Great Britain & Northern Ireland)

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- With the implementation of a new manufacturing process, **the maintenance dose for Nulojix (belatacept) will be changed to 6 mg/kg every 4 weeks.**
- For approximately one to two months starting October 2022, Nulojix from both the previous and the new manufacturing processes will coexist on the market.
- Healthcare professionals must carefully check the dose for the specific product to be administered, to make appropriate adjustments for weight-based dosing calculations.
- The dosage during the induction phase (i.e. the first four months post-transplant) is unchanged (10 mg/kg).

Changes to the Nulojix outer packaging, vial label, and product information have been made to aid in identifying the new supply and are described in detail below.

Background on the safety concern

Nulojix, in combination with corticosteroids and a mycophenolic acid (MPA), is indicated for prophylaxis of graft rejection in adult recipients of a renal transplant (see section 5.1 of the SmPC for data on renal function).

The manufacturing process of Nulojix drug substance (belatacept) has been changed. This is referred to as a change from Process C (current process) to Process E (new process).

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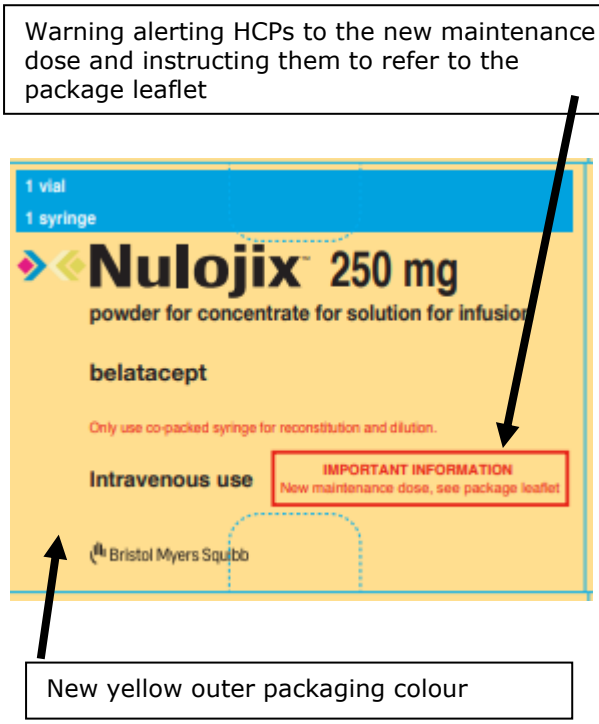
Elimination of belatacept manufactured by Process E is faster than for Process C. Faster elimination is expected to result in a lower minimum concentration (C_{min}) of belatacept during the maintenance phase when a patient is given belatacept from Process E compared to Process C at the same dose level.

To account for the faster elimination of belatacept with Process E, the maintenance dose has been increased to 6 mg/kg. The Process E maintenance dose of 6 mg/kg is to be administered by intravenous infusion every 4 weeks (± 3 days), starting at the end of week 16 after transplantation.

For approximately one to two months, Nulojix from Process C and Process E will coexist on the market. A mix-up between the products may lead to medication errors resulting in over- or underdosing of belatacept. It is therefore important that the healthcare professional checks the dosing for the specific product to be administered, to make the appropriate dosing adjustments for weight-based dosing calculations.

In order to alert healthcare professionals to the posology change and mitigate the risk of dosing errors during the transition phase, the following changes are made to the packaging for Nulojix Process E finished product:

	Current Packaging 5mg/kg maintenance dose (Process C)	**New Packaging** **6mg/kg maintenance dose (Process E)**
1 vial 1 syringe outer packaging		

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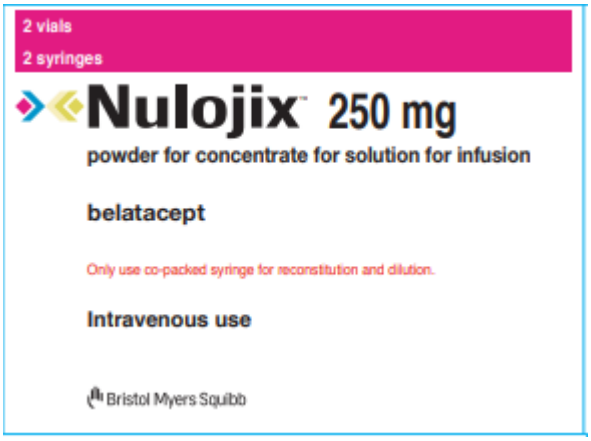
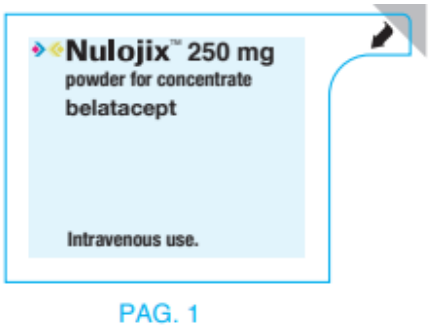
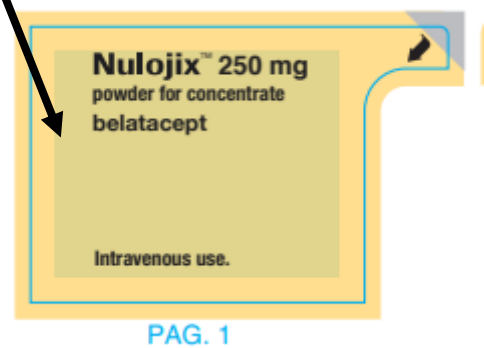
	Current Packaging 5mg/kg maintenance dose (Process C)	**New Packaging** **6mg/kg maintenance dose (Process E)**
2 vials 2 syringes outer packaging		Warning alerting HCPs to the new maintenance dose and instructing them to refer to the package leaflet  New yellow outer packaging colour
Vial Label	 PAG. 1	New yellow label colour matching the outer packaging colour  PAG. 1

The product information, including outer packaging and vial label, are being updated to reflect this dosing change.

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Call for Reporting
Please continue to report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme.

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to the Yellow Card Scheme electronically. Report via the website https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/, the free Yellow Card app available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, and some clinical IT systems (EMIS, SystmOne, Vision, MiDatabank) for healthcare professionals. Suspected side effects can also be reported by calling 0800 731 6789 for free.

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

Adverse events should also be reported to Bristol Myers Squibb Medical Information on 0800 731 1736 or medical.information@bms.com.

Company Contact Point
If you have further questions or require information, please contact Bristol Myers Squibb Medical Information by phone on 0800 731 1736 or via email medical.information@bms.com

For further information on belatacept, please refer to the approved product information available at:
Great Britain: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4685/smpc#gref
Northern Ireland: https://www.emcmedicines.com/en-gb/northernireland/medicine?id=44dd6c99-6091-4064-a6eb-255ca6d696f6&type=smpc

Yours sincerely,

Dr Hubert Bland Digitally signed by Dr Hubert Bland
Date: 2022.08.25 15:25:04 +01'00'

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