Important Kadcyla® (trastuzumab emtansine) Safety Communication: Potential Risk for Medication Error Between Kadcyla® and Herceptin® (trastuzumab)

20 November 2019

Dear Healthcare Professional,

From the 1st December 2019, Kadcyla will be funded by PHARMAC for the following indication:

Kadcyla, as a single agent, is indicated for the treatment of patients with HER2-positive, metastatic breast cancer who previously received trastuzumab and a taxane, separately or in combination. Patients should have either:

- *Received prior therapy for metastatic disease, or*
- *Developed disease recurrence during or within six months of completing adjuvant therapy.*

Roche wishes to alert healthcare professionals of the potential risk for medication error due to the similarity in the generic names of Kadcyla and another breast cancer medicine, Herceptin, and the importance of ensuring that the correct product is administered to patients.

Kadcyla contains a drug substance with the generic name trastuzumab emtansine and Herceptin contains a drug substance with the generic name trastuzumab. The doses and registered indications for Kadcyla, administered every 3 weeks (3.6 mg/kg), and Herceptin, administered every 3 weeks (8 mg/kg loading dose; 6 mg/kg) or weekly (4 mg/kg loading dose; 2 mg/kg), are different.

Healthcare professionals must be aware that confusion between these products may lead to dosing errors and potential harm to patients. Healthcare professionals are advised to use both the Medsafe registered brand name Kadcyla and its full generic name (trastuzumab

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited
98 Carlton Gore Road
Newmarket
Auckland 1023
PO Box 109113
Newmarket, Auckland 1149
New Zealand
Phone +64 9 523 9400
Fax +64 9 523 9465
Toll Free 0800 656 464

emtansine) when prescribing, preparing the infusion solution and administering the medicine to patients.

In addition, Roche has differentiated the packaging for Kadcyla and Herceptin by the use of different colours. Such precautions should help to reduce the potential for medication errors.

Further Information

Before prescribing, please review the full Kadcyla Data Sheet available at https://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/k/kadcylainj.pdf.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of Kadcyla, please contact Roche Medical Information on 0800 276 243.

Reporting Adverse Events

Please report any suspected adverse events via email to Roche Drug Safety at nz.drugsafety@roche.com. Alternatively, this information may be reported to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) in Dunedin by telephone on (03) 479 7247, by fax on (03) 479 7150, online at https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting or by email to nzphvc@otago.ac.nz

Yours sincerely,

Jan Campbell
Director of Medical Affairs

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited
98 Carlton Gore Road
Newmarket
Auckland 1023
PO Box 109113
Newmarket, Auckland 1149
New Zealand
Phone +64 9 523 9400
Fax +64 9 523 9465
Toll Free 0800 656 464