Dear Healthcare Professional Communication

Active substance(s): *Promethazine hydrochloride*

Name of medicinal product: Phenergan

Main message: Restriction of oral formulation use in children less than 6 years of age (new contra-indication, adverse events, warnings/precautions, and overdose in the Product Information)

Dear Healthcare professional,

Sanofi Consumer Healthcare Pty. Ltd. would like to inform you of the following decision taken in agreement with the national Health Authority Medsafe.

Summary

Sanofi Consumer Healthcare Pty. Ltd. decided, in agreement with the national Health Authority Medsafe, to restrict the use of the oral formulations of promethazine-containing products in children less than 6 years of age, based on new scientific evidence on the risks that outweigh the benefits of these medicinal products in this population.

This implies the following changes in the product information of the oral formulations of the above-mentioned product(s):

- Extend the contra-indication from children less than 2 years to children less than 6 years of age.
- Update the psychiatric and central nervous system adverse events section to include aggression, hallucination and psychomotor hyperactivity in children less than 6 years of age.
- Update the overdose section to include intellectual reversible disability and cognition deficit in case of overdose in children less than 6 years of age.
- Update the Warnings and Precautions section to reflect the above.

Background

Promethazine is a phenothiazine derivative. It is a first-generation antihistamine with significant sedative, anticholinergic, and some serotonin antagonist properties.

Promethazine is described as a competitive histamine (H1 receptor) and α-adrenergic receptor antagonist.

Promethazine hydrochloride (Phenergan) is indicated:

Allergies: Treatment of allergic conditions including some allergic reactions to drugs, urticaria and allergic contact dermatitis, and allergic reactions to insect bites and stings.

Upper respiratory tract: Relief of excessive secretion in the upper respiratory tract as a result of hayfever and allergic rhinitis.

Nausea and vomiting: Antiemetic for vomiting from various causes, including postoperative vomiting, irradiation sickness, drug induced nausea and motion sickness.

Sedation: For short term use in adults under the advice of a doctor or pharmacist. Do not use for more than 7 to 10 consecutive days.

Other: Promethazine can be used as a preanesthetic medication for the prevention and control of post operative vomiting.

The Australian Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) Advisory Committee on Medicines (ACM) minutes dated 3-4 February 2022 outlined the evidence of attributable harm in children of first-generation sedating antihistamine products that has been shown by Australian and international data. The ACM recommended the discontinuation of the use of any first-generation sedating antihistamine products in children aged 2 to 5 years.

Hence, a Benefit-Risk assessment was performed by the Marketing Authorization Holder (MAH) on the use of oral formulations of promethazine (and combinations) in children 2 to 5 years of age for any approved indication.

Review of the cumulative safety data in children between 2 to 5 years of age (both limits inclusive) led to the conclusion that the cumulative weight of evidence is sufficient to support a causal association between promethazine (and combinations) and safety concerns pertaining to psychiatric and central nervous system events. In the age group 6 to 17 years of age, the cumulative safety evidence was insufficient to support a causal association and confirms that the safety profile of oral formulations of promethazine-containing products in children/adolescents more than 6 years of age remains unchanged when used as per currently approved product information.

In this framework, the MAH considers that the risks outweigh the benefits for oral formulations of promethazine-containing products in children from 2 to 5 years of age (both limits inclusive).

Based on the review, the Sanofi Consumer Healthcare Pty. Ltd. decided to

- Extend the contraindication from children less than 2 years to children less than 6 years of age.
- Update the adverse events section to include aggression, hallucination, and psychomotor hyperactivity in children less than 6 years of age.
- Update the overdose section to include intellectual reversible disability and cognition deficit in case of overdose in children less than 6 years of age.
- Update the Warnings and Precautions section to reflect the above.

Risk minimization measures:

This Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC) is being distributed to further support Healthcare Professionals in prescribing and/or dispensing promethazine (and combinations) medicinal products.
Electronic versions will be distributed to the concerned Healthcare professionals as per local regulation.

The oral formulation product information and the Consumer Medicine Information are being updated to reflect these changes. In the meantime, it is essential that you provide parents with advice on the appropriate use of these products for their children.

Call for reporting

Reporting any suspected adverse event is important for the continued monitoring of the safety of all medicines. Any adverse events which are experienced with Phenergan should be reported by healthcare professionals and patients to Sanofi Consumer Healthcare Pty. Ltd. To report an adverse event, product quality complaint or a medical information enquiry, please call 1800 818 806 within Australia, or 0800 283 684 within New Zealand or email to chc.ae@sanofi.com

Alternatively, this information can be reported to Medsafe**.**

Online Submit a CARM report
Prescribers can also submit a report using the online reporting tool available in-patient management software.

Paper	Download a consumer reporting form (Word Document, 61KB, 1 page) Download a healthcare professional reporting form (PDF, 292 KB, 2 pages) Submit completed forms by emailing CARMreport@health.govt.nz or mail (Medsafe, Ministry of Health, 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington, 6011).
Email	CARMreport@health.govt.nz

Post-market reports of suspected adverse reactions to medicines that occur in New Zealand are reported to Medsafe and collected and stored in the New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Database.

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