17th January 2018

BUCCOLAM (midazolam): Risk of inhalation/ingestion of tip cap of prefilled plastic syringes

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Further to the previous communication dated 24th November 2017, Shire Services BVBA, in agreement with the European Medicines Agency and Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

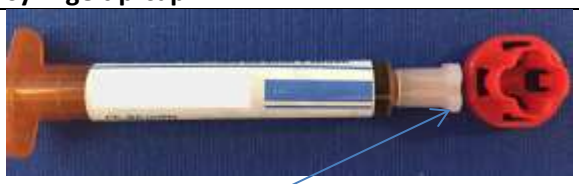
- **The translucent tip-cap of BUCCOLAM prefilled syringes can on occasion remain attached to the syringe tip when pulling off the red cap with the risk of being detached into the patient's mouth and inhaled or ingested upon administration.**
- **If the translucent tip-cap remains on the syringe, it needs to be removed manually before giving the medicine.**
- **Please inform parents and caregivers about this risk and the need to perform the appropriate check before administering the product (see instructions below).**
- **Pharmacists are encouraged to proactively communicate the information included in the instructions attached to this letter to patients, parents and caregivers who have been dispensed BUCCOLAM and who have not already been made aware. Further supplies of BUCCOLAM will contain these instructions, to be given to patients with their pack.**

Background on the safety concern

Shire has received reports that, when removing the red cap from the syringe, the translucent tip-cap has remained on the syringe tip. This has resulted in incidents (2) of the translucent tip-cap becoming detached into the patient's mouth during administration and being accidentally aspirated or ingested.

Instructions for safe administration

Before administering BUCCOLAM, patients, parents and caregivers should check that the translucent tip cap is attached to the removed red security cap, as shown in **Figure 1** below. The translucent cap should not remain attached to the syringe, as shown in **Figure 2** below. If the tip cap remains attached to the syringe, it should be removed manually before administration to prevent the translucent tip cap from accidentally entering the patient's mouth.

Figure 1. CORRECT Removal of the translucent syringe tip-cap	Figure 2. INCORRECT Removal of the translucent syringe tip-cap
	

Shire is working with the Regulatory Authorities to resolve this issue.

In the meantime, please inform patients, caregivers, and other healthcare providers who will be or have been dispensed BUCCOLAM about this risk and the instructions required to minimize it, if they have not already been made aware.

To support your communication, Shire has provided the below annex to support safe administration of BUCCOLAM. Please provide this annex to patients, parents and caregivers.

Further information

BUCCOLAM is approved in the European Economic Area for the following therapeutic indication:

- Treatment of prolonged, acute, convulsive seizures in infants, toddlers, children and adolescents (from 3 months to < 18 years).

BUCCOLAM must only be used by parents/caregivers where the patient has been diagnosed to have epilepsy. For infants between 3-6 months of age treatment should be in a hospital setting where monitoring is possible and resuscitation equipment is available.

Detailed information on this product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency: http://www.ema.europa.eu

Call for reporting

Please report any suspected adverse reactions to any medicine to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) through the online reporting service.

It is easiest and quickest to report ADRs using the online Human Medicines adverse reaction report form from the HPRA website: www.hpra.ie

Alternatively you can report a suspected side effect in a number of ways:

- In writing to HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL – Dublin 2

- Or by calling Tel: +353 1 6764971
- By downloading a copy of the adverse reaction report form from www.hpra.ie You can e-mail completed forms to medsafety@hpra.ie

Any suspected adverse reactions observed during use of BUCCOLAM 2.5 mg , 5 mg , 7.5mg and 10 mg oromucosal solution may also be reported to Shire at 0044 (0)1256 894000 or emailed to: drugsafety@shire.com

Company contact point

Should you have any questions or require additional information on the use of BUCCOLAM 2.5 mg , 5 mg, 7.5 mg and 10 mg oromucosal solution, please contact Medical Information at Tel: 0044 (0)800 055 6614 or by email at MedinfoEMEA@shire.com

Sincerely,

Dr Daniel (Toby) Shephard BSc. MBBS MFPM
Country Medical Head UK & Ireland
Shire

17.01.2018

Felicia Pinto
UK & Ireland Head Regulatory Affairs
Shire

17/01/18

Instructions for patients and caregivers

Instructions for correct administration of BUCCOLAM Prefilled Plastic Syringes

The clear tip-cap of BUCCOLAM syringes can sometimes remain attached to the syringe after the red cap has been taken off. If this happens, the tip-cap can detach in the patient's mouth and they might breathe it in or swallow it. If this happens, this could be a choking hazard.

Continue to give BUCCOLAM as your doctor, nurse or pharmacist has told you to, **BUCCOLAM remains safe to use**.

Before you use of Buccolam you must follow the instructions below:

Correct

1. Before giving BUCCOLAM, pull the red cap off the end. Check the clear tip-cap is attached to the red cap, as shown.	

Incorrect

2. Make sure the clear tip-cap is not still attached to the syringe, as shown.	

3. If the clear tip-cap is still attached to the syringe, you should **pull it off before** giving BUCCOLAM to prevent it from going into the patient's mouth.

! If you think the tip-cap is in the patient's mouth, **do not** insert a finger into the mouth to look for it or remove it. Instead, turn the patient onto their side (recovery position) and make sure they spit it out when they stop fitting.

Call for reporting

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. You should also tell them about any occasions in which the clear tip-cap remained attached to the syringe.
You can also report side effects to the HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2, Tel: +353 1 6764971, Fax: +353 1 6762517, Website: www.hpra.ie e-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie