Roche

Dublin, 13th July 2007

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication on the establishment of Viracept® (nelfinavir) Patient Registries.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Summary

- Following the recall of Viracept at the beginning of June, due to contamination with methanesulfonic acid ethyl ester (also called Ethyl Methane Sulfonate or EMS), Roche Products (Ireland) Limited is setting up patient registries to follow-up patients who took Viracept and have potentially been exposed to the contaminant.
- We are asking for your help to ensure that important information is not lost while we set up these registries.
- Arrangements for capture of relevant data via these registries have been agreed with the European regulatory authorities, including the IMB.

Help from healthcare professionals is required

Roche will be setting up two registries:

Registry 1: All patients potentially exposed to Viracept from batches which have been contaminated with EMS at a high level. These were available between **March 1st 2007 and the recall in June 2007 in the following countries:**

France	Germany	Portugal
Italy	United Kingdom	Spain

As none of these batches were distributed in the Republic of Ireland, Registry 1 is not required in Ireland.

Registry 2: All children (up to the age of 18 years) who have taken Viracept, all children who have been exposed to Viracept *in utero* and all pregnant women who have taken Viracept (to determine pregnancy outcome). For these patient groups, the registry will cover all patients **since Viracept was first made available (1998) and all countries in the European Union.** This registry is being set up because tests have shown that Viracept has contained low levels of EMS in the past.

Since it will take time to gain the necessary national approvals and patient consent for the registries, Roche asks for your assistance to record the data listed below while the programme is formally set up, so that the success of these registries can be ensured. We appreciate that it may not always be possible to obtain these data but any efforts made in this regard could be of enormous benefit to patients and public health.

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There needs to be **a listing of patients with exposure to Viracept** as described above, so that when the Registries are implemented, all appropriate patients are included.
Where possible, please record the following information:

- Start and stop dates for Viracept plain, film-coated tablets or oral powder.
- Batch numbers for drug dispensed to or returned by individual patients may not be available; however if batch numbers dispensed from your office or pharmacy, including dates received, dispensed or returned are available from your records, please document this information.

Do NOT provide this information to Roche directly yet. Until the registries are formally set up, please establish the listings and record the requested information directly in the patient's medical chart.

Once we have the approval of the IMB and the local , Ethics Committee and signed Informed Consent, has been received from the individual patient, we will contact you to collect this information and provide you with further details of your participation.

How patients on the registries will be followed is currently being defined, in agreement with all European regulatory authorities.

Further information on the safety concern
We initially informed you of the Viracept recall between 6th and 9th of June 2007 following the discovery that several batches of Viracept tablets (plain and film-coated) and powder manufactured by Roche may have contained the genotoxic contaminant, EMS.

By now all patients on Viracept should have been switched to alternative therapies.

Scientific evidence implies that any potential health risk stemming from EMS in Viracept can be related to its genotoxic (DNA damaging) properties. Roche is preparing toxicity studies to evaluate better the potential risk to patients who have been exposed. However, at present, it is not possible to define the level at which EMS exposure is a risk, or which organs could be affected. No recommendations can be made for cancer screens in addition to those that HIV patients routinely undergo.

We have since established that batches containing high levels of EMS were supplied to certain countries only. Upon testing of supplies manufactured in past years, we have learned that Viracept supply did occasionally show lower levels of contamination with EMS, therefore Registry 2 is being set up..

Call for Reporting
Please report any suspected adverse reactions or any unexpected adverse event in patients who have been taking Viracept to the IMB and to the local Roche Drug Safety Department, as follows:
Name: Karen Gallagher, Drug Safety Manager
Address: Roche Products (Ireland) Limited, 3004 Citywest, Naas Road, Dublin 24.
Fax: + 353 1 469 0793

For further information please contact your local Roche Office (Roche Products (Ireland) Limited), 3004 Lake Drive, Citywest, Naas Road, Dublin 24. Tel: +353 1 469 0700; e-mail:

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Ireland.druginfo@roche.com) or the official Roche web site (http://www.roche.com/med-cor-2007-06-06b).

Yours faithfully,

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