URGENT: Field Safety Notice
For Healthcare Professionals

Alere™ INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system

December 10, 2014

Dear Healthcare Professional,

This letter contains important information concerning the Alere™ INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system (INRatio®/ INRatio®2 Monitors and the INRatio®/INRatio®2 Test Strips). A complete part number list of affected products is attached (Appendix A). In certain cases an INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system may provide an INR result that is clinically significantly lower than a result obtained using a reference INR system (laboratory method). This issue can arise if the patient has certain medical conditions, as discussed below. It can also occur if the instructions in the labelling for performing the test are not followed.

Do NOT use the INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system on patients with any of the following conditions:

- anemia of any type with hematocrit <30% (Alere INRatio® PT/INR Test Strips) or <25% (Alere INRatio®2 PT/INR Test Strips, Heparin Insensitive)
- any conditions associated with elevated fibrinogen levels including:
    - acute inflammatory conditions (examples may include acute viral or bacterial infections such as pneumonia or influenza)
    - chronic inflammatory conditions (examples may include rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, infectious liver diseases such as hepatitis, or inflammatory kidney diseases such as diabetic nephropathy and glomerulonephritis)
    - severe infection (e.g. sepsis)
    - chronically elevated fibrinogen for any reason
    - hospitalized or advanced stage cancer or end stage renal disease patients requiring hemodialysis
- any bleeding or unusual bruising, clinically observed or reported by the patient

Patients with any of the conditions listed above should immediately be transitioned to a laboratory INR method for monitoring their INR and anticoagulant therapy.

In addition, please review and ensure you and your patients (either patients being tested at your facility or your patients who self-test at home) adhere to the following precautions in order to obtain the most accurate results:

- Only patients who have already been stabilized on anticoagulant should be tested with the INRatio® Monitor system.
- If the INRatio® Monitor system's INR result falls within the therapeutic range, but there is reason to believe the INR could be significantly different (e.g., symptoms such as bleeding or bruising which suggests the therapeutic INR value may be falsely low), testing by an alternative method should be performed immediately.
- Please be aware that the actual value of a supratherapeutic INR result could be higher than the value as measured by the INRatio® Monitor system.
- Only use the Alere INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system on patient samples within the hematocrit range:
    - 30% to 55% for the Alere INRatio® PT/INR Test Strips

  - 25% to 53% for the Alere INRatio®2 PT/INR Test Strips, Heparin Insensitive

- Apply ONLY one large drop of blood immediately to the test strip. Never add more blood to a test strip after the test has begun. Applying additional sample may result in a discrepant result. If in doubt, repeat the test with a fresh test strip and a fresh drop of blood from a new fingerstick site using a new lancet.
- The monitor should be on a stable surface during the test. Do not move the monitor during the test.

In addition to the precautions outlined above, Alere recommends that you arrange for your patients to have periodic verification of their INR using a laboratory INR method. Any patient having a significant discrepant low result on the INRatio® monitor system as compared to the plasma-based laboratory INR method should immediately be transitioned to this alternative method for monitoring their INR and anticoagulant therapy. Significant discrepancy in INR results may lead to a delay in an urgent medical decision to reverse a supratherapeutic INR level following the established guidelines for monitoring anticoagulant therapy. Such discrepancies are of particular concern when the erroneous INR result is within the therapeutic range but the actual value is supratherapeutic, i.e. when the actual INR value is 6 or greater. For example, discrepancies in which the laboratory INR value is 6 or greater and the INRatio® INR value is 3 or less are of particular concern. In such cases, actions should be taken not only to reverse the high INR, but also to transition the patient from the INRatio® system to an alternative INR monitoring method. You may also consider discrepancies of a lower magnitude to be significantly discrepant, including discrepancies of 1 or 2 INR units compared to the laboratory INR value, based on your professional judgement and medical practice.

Alere also recommends that you arrange to have your patients tested to verify that their hematocrit falls within the range of 30% to 55% (Alere INRatio® PT/INR Test Strips) or 25% to 53% (Alere INRatio®2 PT/INR Test Strips, Heparin Insensitive). Patients with hematocrit outside this range should be immediately transitioned to a plasma-based laboratory INR monitoring method.

As part of its commitment to ensuring the safety of patients, Alere has reported these device concerns to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory agencies throughout the world and is conducting a thorough investigation into these events.

Customers with questions regarding this issue can call Alere via the phone number provided in Appendix B depending on your country or origin.

Adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of this product may be reported to your country competent authority or other agency as required.

All relevant National Competent Authorities have been advised of this FSCA. Should you have any questions about the information contained in this notification, please contact:

Alere San Diego, Inc.
9975 Summers Ridge Road
San Diego, CA 92121, U.S.A.
Phone: See Appendix B
E-mail: alere4319global@alere.com

In Germany, you may also contact our European Representative:
MDSS GmbH
Schiffgraben 41
30175 Hannover
Germany
Tel.: +49 511 6262 8630
Fax: +49 511 6262 8633

URGENT: Field Safety Notice
For Healthcare Professionals

CUSTOMER REQUIRED ACTION

- Ensure you have read and understand the precautions described in the current product labelling (a complete list of products is provided in Appendix A) and the additional precautions in this notice describing medical conditions that may increase the risk of obtaining a (falsely or erroneously) lower than expected INR result. The INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system should NOT be used if your patient has any of the medical conditions described.
- Verify that your patient hematocrit falls within the range of 30% to 55% (Alere INRatio® PT/INR Test Strips) or 25% to 53% (Alere INRatio®2 PT/INR Test Strips, Heparin Insensitive). If not, immediately transition your patient to an alternate INR monitoring method.
- Perform INR verification testing for your patients using a laboratory INR test method. Immediately transition any patient with a significantly discrepant low result on the INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system to an alternative INR monitoring method.
- If you have forwarded product to another customer, please provide a copy of this letter to them.
- Please complete and post or e-mail the enclosed Reply Form (Appendix C – the last page of this notice) **within 10 days** to confirm your receipt of this notice. If you have questions regarding this notice, please call Alere per the appropriate phone number provided in Appendix B.

Please e-mail the completed Reply Form to:
Alere via the following address or FAX number

Email: alere4319global@stericycle.com
Fax Number: 0044 (0) 808 134 9902'

We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Keith McLain, VP Quality Alere San Diego

URGENT: Field Safety Notice
For Healthcare Professionals

Appendix A: Product List

Product	Product Part Number	Brand Name
INRatio® Test Strips	0100071	Alere INRatio® PT/INR Test Strips, Box of 12
	0100139	Alere INRatio® PT/INR Test Strips, Box of 48
INRatio® 2 Test Strips	99007EU	INRatio®/ INRatio®2 Prothrombin Time (PT) Test Strips Heparin Insensitive, Box of 12
	99007G1	Alere INRatio®2 PT/INR Test Strip, Heparin Insensitive, Box of 12
	99008EU	INRatio®/ INRatio®2 Prothrombin Time (PT) Test Strips Heparin Insensitive, Box of 48
	99008G1	Alere INRatio®2 PT/INR Test Strip, Heparin Insensitive, Box of 48
INRatio® Monitors	0100004	Alere™ INRatio® PT/INR System Professional
	0100007	INRatio® Prothrombin Time (PT) Monitoring System
INRatio® 2 Monitors	0200431	Alere™ INRatio®2 PT/INR Professional Testing System
	0200433	Alere™ INRatio®2 PT/INR Home Monitoring System

If you would like to receive an additional copy of the labelling for your product, please contact your local Alere Technical Services Representative.

URGENT: Field Safety Notice
For Healthcare Professionals

Appendix B: Country Specific Contact Phone Numbers

Please contact us per the phone number provided below depending on your country of origin:

Country	Phone Number
Austria	**0800-802023**
Belgium	**0800-265-62**
France	**0800-911164**
Germany	**0800-181-7993**
Ireland	**1-800-550-264**
Italy	**800-129-361**
Netherlands	**0-800-022-4656**
Spain	**900-804956**
Switzerland	**0800-554-330**
UK	**0-800-088-5527**

For all other countries please contact your local Alere Technical Services Representative.

URGENT: Field Safety Notice
For Healthcare Professionals

Appendix C: Reply Form

Please complete this form even if you do not have any involved product and return in the post paid envelope or email to alere4319global@stericycle.com.

URGENT MEDICAL DEVICE NOTIFICATION: REPLY FORM

I have been notified by Alere San Diego of the precautions for the Alere™ INRatio® PT/INR Monitor system.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- ☐ I have no record of receipt of this product and therefore will take no further actions.
- ☐ I no longer use this product and therefore will take no further actions.
- ☐ I have read and understand the letter and will follow the recommended precautions and actions.
- ☐ I have forwarded this notification to our customers/consignees to which we have distributed product.

Please complete the following information:

DATE: _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ DEPARTMENT: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ _____ PHONE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAX: _____

Please Fax to 0044 (0) 808 134 9902 **or email a PDF to alere4319global@stericycle.com.** To satisfy global requirements for regulatory reporting, please complete and return this form within 10 business days of receipt.