



Pfizer New Zealand Limited
Level 1, Building B
8 Nugent Street
Auckland, 1021

14 August 2018

Dear Healthcare Professional,

We wish to provide clarification to the [Pfizer letter, dated 19 July 2018](#), under the subject heading,

Dissolution profile of Dilantin[®] 30 mg and 100 mg capsules (New Formulation)

Please be advised that there is no change to the time scale or magnitude in the dissolution specifications. The statement “dissolution time of phenytoin manufactured using the new formulation may become longer” in the Pfizer letter is to advise that the minor changes in formulations may contribute to a slower rate of dissolution. Importantly, the amount of phenytoin that is released from the old and new formulations measured at the end of the dissolution is the same, demonstrating that the capsule will successfully release phenytoin.

We also wish to advise that the change in formulations is the addition of the following new excipients:

- Lactose monohydrate in the 30 mg capsules.
- In both the 30 mg and 100 mg capsules, sucrose and maize starch are added as a pre-blend (confectioner’s sugar) instead of as individual excipients.

Details of the excipients can be found on the Medsafe website.

There was no change to the appearance of the capsules.

In support of the change in formulations, two bioequivalence studies between the old and new formulations were conducted and submitted to Medsafe for evaluation. The dissolution specifications and proof of bioequivalence comply with regulatory requirements specified by Medsafe.

The considerable inter- and intra- patient variability in phenytoin pharmacokinetics is well known and dosage is tailored to the individual. As stated in the Pfizer letter, given the possible slower dissolution rate of the new formulations, it may be prudent to measure phenytoin serum levels at least 7 to 10 days after commencement of treatment with the reformulated capsules. This will detect any change in equilibrium or steady-state serum levels and the dose may be adjusted accordingly. Additional serum level determinations may be required to further refine the dosage regimen.

Pfizer wishes to advise that the new formulations have been supplied in the US market for more than 5 years. The new formulations are also being introduced into the Australian market. We are not aware of any adverse events related to the change in formulation.

Please contact Pfizer Medical Information on 0800 736 363 if you have any questions with regards to this reformulation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Eric Meyer
Associate Medical Director
Pfizer Essential Health