6 September 2021

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Actemra® (tocilizumab) - Notification of Temporary Supply Shortage for Actemra® 20 mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (IV)

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- All funded presentations of Actemra® (tocilizumab) 20 mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (IV) are expected to be temporarily out-of-stock in New Zealand as of October 2021. Re-supply is expected by January 2022.

- Please re-assess your patients' current overall disease condition and consider proactively transitioning patients to funded alternatives, where available. For information on funded treatment options, please go to Pharmac's website https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/medicine-notices/.

Background on the shortage

Actemra® (tocilizumab) is used in New Zealand as per Table 1:

Table 1: Actemra (tocilizumab) availability in New Zealand

Indication for use	**Medsafe registration status**	**PHARMAC funding status**
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Registered	Funded under Special Authority
Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA)	Registered	Funded under Special Authority
Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA)	Registered	Funded under Special Authority
Idiopathic multicentric Castleman's disease (iMCD)	Not registered	Funded under Special Authority
Cytokine release syndrome (CRS)	Not registered	Funded under Special Authority
Adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD)	Not registered	Funded under Special Authority
Giant cell arteritis (GCA)	Registered (SC only)	Not funded

SC = subcutaneous

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This supply shortage has not arisen due to any safety concern. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global demand for Actemra has been increasing at an unprecedented rate.

Roche has carefully considered various options for how to best manage this gap between supply and demand. Roche is working closely with Pharmac to proactively manage the situation.

Roche is urgently working to increase manufacturing capacity and supply by extending the production network, and through active collaboration with external partners to maximise the production of Actemra, wherever possible with the goal of increasing the available supply globally.

Based on current data, a shortage of Actemra IV is expected for New Zealand as of October 2021. Re-supply is expected by January 2022.

Before prescribing, please review the full Actemra Data Sheet available at www.medsafe.govt.nz.

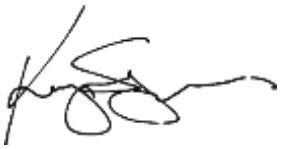
Reporting Adverse Events
Roche will continue to monitor the safety of Actemra through established reporting mechanisms and notify regulatory authorities as per current regulations.

Please report any suspected adverse events via email to Roche Drug Safety at nz.drugsafety@roche.com. Alternatively, this information may be reported to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) in Dunedin by telephone on (03) 479 7247, by fax on (03) 479 7150, online at https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting or by email to nzphvc@otago.ac.nz.

Further Information
If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of Actemra please contact Roche Medical Information at auckland.medinfonz@roche.com or leave a voicemail on 0800 276 243.

For further information on funded treatment options, please visit the Pharmac website https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/medicine-notices/.

Yours sincerely,



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