



March 18, 2007

Dear Health Care Professional,

You may already be aware that the safety information in the US package inserts (USPI) for ESAs, including Aranesp, has been updated. This updated safety information, which reflects findings from recent US and non-US studies conducted with Epoetin alfa, Epoetin beta, and darbepoetin alfa, has been approved by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA). **There was no change to the indications for the use of Aranesp, which are for the treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease, including patients on dialysis and patients not on dialysis, and the treatment of anemia in patients with non-myeloid malignancies where anemia is due to the effect of concomitantly administered chemotherapy.**

The additional safety information, which has been highlighted as a boxed warning in the USPI, has generated considerable interest and discussion in various regions, including Israel. Accordingly, Megapharm and Amgen would like to share with you a copy of the joint letter that has been distributed to US health care professionals (DHCP) by Amgen and Ortho Biotech. Summaries of the clinical studies that were used to support the new warnings are also provided in the US DHCP letter.

The FDA is assembling an Oncologic Drug Advisory Committee meeting on 10 May 2007 to further consider the information reflected in the letter. Additionally, the EU Pharmacovigilance Working Group (PVWG) is considering the impact of these studies on the use of ESAs within the European Community. Amgen is fully committed to contributing to these expert reviews and updates of the safety and efficacy of ESAs, including Aranesp[®]. Consultation is ongoing between Megapharm, Amgen and the Ministry of Health in Israel with respect to updating the Physicians Prescribing Information to encompass the latest safety and efficacy information.

Megapharm and Amgen believe these drugs have a favorable risk/benefit profile and will continue to work closely with regulatory agencies in all regions to ensure that the information in our approved labels accurately reflect the current state of knowledge about the safety of these important products.

Should you have any questions, require further information on product safety, or wish to report adverse patient experiences, please contact Megapharm 09-7604596

Sincerely,

Mgr. Haya Shalev
Appointed Pharmacist
Megapharm Ltd.