Important Information Regarding Availability of VariZIG™ [Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human)] Lyophilized and its Reconstitution

Customer Letter #2007-09

2007-02-26

Dear Customer:

This Customer Letter pertains to:
- Inventory depletion of Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human) S/D 625 IU manufactured by Massachusetts Public Health Biologic Laboratories.
- Technical information on reconstitution of VariZIG™ [Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human)] manufactured by Cangene Corporation.

Background:

Inventories:
- Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human) S/D 625 IU vial inventory is now nearly depleted.
- VariZIG™ [Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human)] 125 IU vial will continue to be available for distribution.

Reconstituting VariZIG™ [Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human)] 125 IU vial format:
VariZIG™ comes as a lyophilized powder in a single-use 125 IU vial with an accompanying 8.5 ml vial of sterile diluent. The product is licensed for administration by either intramuscular (IM) or intravenous (IV) route. The manufacturer’s instructions for product reconstitution must be carefully followed. In particular, it is important to note that although 8.5 ml of diluent is supplied with each 125 IU vial of VariZIG™, only an appropriate volume of diluent specified in the product monograph is required for reconstituting the product. In addition, since the appropriate dose of VariZIG™ varies by weight of recipient (125 IU per 10 kg body weight up to a full 625 IU adult dose), multiple vials (up to 5 vials for an adult dose) must be reconstituted for doses greater than 125 IU.
Most commonly, Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin is administered by the intramuscular route. For *intramuscular (IM)* administration, each vial of VariZIG™ 125 IU lyophilized powder is reconstituted with 1.25 ml of diluent. Therefore, a full adult dose (625 IU) of VariZIG™ for *IM administration*, requires 5 vials of 125 IU lyophilized powder to be reconstituted using a total of 6.25 ml of diluent.

For *intravenous (IV)* administration, each vial of 125 IU lyophilized powder is reconstituted with 2.5 ml of diluent. Therefore, a full adult dose (625 IU) of VariZIG™ for *IV administration*, requires 5 vials of 125 IU lyophilized powder to be reconstituted using a total of 12.5 ml of diluent.

Please consult the product monograph for details and further information. It is also available on the Cangene Corporation website at: [http://www.cangene.com](http://www.cangene.com). If you have further questions about VariZIG™ [Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Human)], please contact Cangene Corporation at 1-877-226-4363.

If you have questions about this Canadian Blood Services Customer Letter, please contact Canadian Blood Service Plasma Products and Services at (613) 739-2392.

This Customer Letter is also available on the Canadian Blood Services website at www.blood.ca

Sincerely,

Ms. Sue Smith
Executive Director,
Plasma Products and Services

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