Availability of Vivaglobin®
(Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human])

Customer Letter # 2009-04

2009-01-15

Dear Customer,

This Customer Letter pertains to the launch of Vivaglobin® (Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human]). The distribution of subcutaneous immune globulin by Canadian Blood Services has been approved by the Provincial and Territorial funders.

Please find enclosed the following:

- Dear Healthcare Provider letter from CSL Behring dated January 1st, 2009, containing important information concerning Vivaglobin® (Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human]).
- Further information on Vivaglobin® and on the other Immune Globulin (IG) products currently distributed by Canadian Blood Services, is being provided in the attached revised Immune Globulin Comparison Table (dated 2009-01-07). This table, previously titled IVIG Comparison Table, presents data as per the current Health Canada approved Product Monographs for easy reference and comparison.

This table can be downloaded from www.blood.ca by following the links to “Hospitals” and “Plasma Protein Products” under “Product Comparison Tables”

Background:

Canadian Blood Services had, until now, limited the distribution of Vivaglobin® to patients with urgent medical requirements, pending the completion of a comprehensive review through a joint evaluation process between Canadian Blood Services and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH). The Provinces and Territories have approved the inclusion of subcutaneous immune globulin as a regular product within Canadian Blood Services’ plasma protein products portfolio.

CSL Behring’s Vivaglobin® (Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human]) may be ordered from Canadian Blood Services Sites in the same manner as any other Health Canada licensed product distributed by Canadian Blood Services using the Plasma Proteins Order Form which has been revised to reflect the availability of this product.

Vivaglobin® (Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human]) is licensed by Health Canada for the treatment of patients with primary immune deficiency (PID). Hospitals should follow the guidance for the use of Vivaglobin® provided by each Provincial and Territorial jurisdiction.
Availability of Vivaglobin®:

Vivaglobin® is currently available from Canadian Blood Services Sites in a 10 mL vial size containing a 16% protein solution. CSL Behring has indicated that a 3 mL vial size would become available later in 2009.

Healthcare providers are requested to limit their orders of Vivaglobin® to a maximum of 3 months supply for homecare per patient to ensure sufficient inventory is available to all patients.

Plasma Proteins Order Form

The Canadian Blood Services Plasma Proteins Order Form, which is used by hospital customers to order plasma protein products, has been revised and made available on the Canadian Blood Services website commencing the week of January 12, 2009 to reflect the addition of Vivaglobin®. For ordering purposes, the following “CBS Code” has been assigned to Vivaglobin®: 1000104963.

This revised Plasma Proteins Order Form can be downloaded from www.blood.ca by following the links to “Hospitals” and “Hospital Customer Forms”, which is password protected. Please contact your local Hospital Liaison Specialist to get the User Name and Password or for a hardcopy of the Plasma Proteins Order Form. Contact information for Medical Directors and Hospital Liaison Specialists can be found at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals” section under “Customer Letters”.

If you have any questions about Vivaglobin® (Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human]), please contact CSL Behring at 1-866-773-7721, extension 213.

The Health Technology Assessment report titled Subcutaneous Versus Intravenous Immunoglobulin for Primary Immunodeficiencies: Systematic Review and Economic Evaluation, published in January 2008 by CADTH, can be viewed at www.cadth.ca under the Health Technology Assessment section.

This Customer Letter and the enclosures can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals” section.

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

Sincerely,

for Ian Mumford
Chief Operating Officer

Encl.