

# Compliance Alert

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April 10, 2008

## **Express Scripts – Urgent – Two Emerging Therapeutic Issues**

Schwarz Pharma, a company of the UCB group, announced plans to recall Neupro® (rotigotine) patches at the end of April 2008. After this date, the patches will no longer be available in the United States. This recall is being conducted due to crystal formation in the patches that could result in variable absorption of the drug.

The company is requesting that physicians do not start any new patients on Neupro. In addition, patients currently on the medication may need to be down-titrated before discontinuing therapy. The down-titration should be performed with Neupro patches that are *unaffected or minimally affected* by crystals. Pictures, as well as additional information, are available on the drug's website at: [www.Neupro.com](http://www.Neupro.com).

Your employees can call UCB's Medical Information directly at 1-800-477-7877 (option 9) if you have any questions.

### **Express Scripts response:**

- In an effort to inform members of this recall, we have identified members who have received a prescription for Neupro patches labeled within the past 120 days. A communication summarizing the information by the manufacturers will be sent to these members.
- A physician communication will also be distributed, along with patient profiles. This information is intended to help them identify current Neupro users that may require down-titration and a possible alternate therapy.
- The above communications will be distributed for those clients enrolled in the member and physician portions of the Emerging Therapeutic Issues Patient Safety Program.

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Recently, Covidien announced a recall of pre-filled syringes containing the blood thinner, heparin sodium for injection. The recall was issued as a precautionary measure after two lots were found to contain a heparin-like contaminant. FDA has received reports of serious injuries and/or deaths in patients who have been administered with heparin injectable products from other companies containing this contaminant. These adverse reactions include typical symptoms of anaphylactic-like reactions such as low blood pressure, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.

For additional information about these changes or to report an adverse event, please access FDA's MedWatch website at: [www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety.htm](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety.htm) . You can also call the FDA at 1-888-INFO-FDA or 301-827-4570.

**Express Scripts response:**

- In an effort to inform members of this recall, we have identified members who have received a prescription for Covidien's recalled heparin for injection within the past 120 days. A communication summarizing the information by the manufacturers will be sent to these members.
- These communications will be distributed for those clients enrolled in the member portion of the Emerging Therapeutic Issues Patient Safety Program.
- Express Scripts Home Delivery has not dispensed this product.

***If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Group Benefit Services Account Manager at 1.800.638.6085.***

*This communication is not intended to be legal advice and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any legal questions or concerns about your plan, GBS recommends seeking counsel from an ERISA attorney.*

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