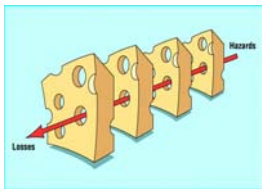
Northern Ireland
Medicines Governance Team



SAFETY MEMO 8

From: Medicines Governance Pharmacists,

To:
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services / Trust Pharmacy Managers – **For action**
Dr N Morrow, Chief Pharmacist, DHSSPSNI
Directors of Pharmacy, HSS Boards } For information

25th April 2005

RE: Safe preparation of ciprofloxacin suspension

Recent medication incident reports indicate that patients requiring ciprofloxacin suspension may have received inert diluent rather than the reconstituted product. Unopened granule bottles have been discovered at ward level and in returned items to pharmacy departments.

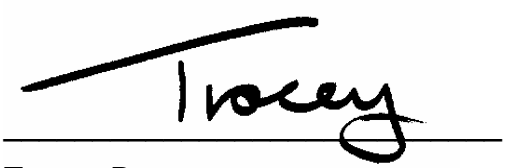
As you will be aware, Ciproxin® suspension is a unique formulation where the opaque diluent is presented in the final container, to which the medicine granules are added to prepare the final active formulation. This process differentiates the product from other antibiotic suspensions where the diluent is added to the final container of dry granules or powder.

To reduce the risk to patients of receiving the inert diluent instead of ciprofloxacin suspension, the following action is recommended:

- all relevant staff should be informed of the difference in presentation of this product compared to other antibiotic products for reconstitution;
- pharmacy staff should reconstitute ciprofloxacin suspension wherever possible for delivery to staff for administration. The reconstituted suspension should be labelled with the date of reconstitution and expiry;
- where prior reconstitution is not possible, Trusts should:
    - attach an alert notice to the storage location in wards and departments where it is essential that a stock of ciprofloxacin suspension is available; and/ or,
    - attach an additional label to alert staff administering medicines that further reconstitution is required before use. This label may be used as a seal on the outer packaging so that it is visible to all staff.

Example alert notices and additional labels are attached. This identified risk has been reported to the manufacturer.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Medicines Governance pharmacist.



Tracey Boyce
Team Leader,
On behalf of the NIMGT

Shelf edge notice for the pharmacy department (alter as appropriate)

Ciprofloxacin suspension

This product must be reconstituted and additional label (code) attached before issue.

Additional label for the reconstituted product (pharmacy use)

This suspension has been reconstituted by the pharmacy department.

Date reconstituted:……
Do not use after:……

Shelf edge notice for wards that hold the product as stock/ additional label to seal outer packaging

**** CAUTION – Ciprofloxacin suspension ****

This pack contains a bottle of inert liquid and a bottle of granules. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for reconstitution before use.