New Limitations of Use and Safety Information for Fluoroquinolones

August 22, 2016

Subject: Important Changes in the Avelox® (moxifloxacin hydrochloride) and Cipro® (ciprofloxacin) Complete Prescribing Information – New Limitations of Use and Safety Information for Fluoroquinolones

Dear Health Care Professional:
Bayer HealthCare Inc. and Merck & Co., Inc. would like to inform you of important changes to the prescribing information for fluoroquinolone antibiotics for systemic use in the United States, including Avelox® (moxifloxacin hydrochloride) and Cipro® (ciprofloxacin).

Limitation of Use and Safety Information for Fluoroquinolone Drugs

To communicate important safety information for fluoroquinolone antibiotics, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has requested that all license holders of these products, including Bayer for Avelox® and Cipro®, implement a class label change.

These labeling changes provide for revisions to the Indications and Usage section of the package insert to include a new limitation of use statement for acute bacterial sinusitis, uncomplicated urinary tract infections, acute uncomplicated cystitis, and acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis, to reserve systemic fluoroquinolones for treatment in patients who have no alternative treatment options. In addition, the Boxed Warning, Warnings and Precautions, and Information for Patients sections of the package insert and the Medication Guide have been revised to include information regarding the risk of disabling and potentially irreversible serious adverse reactions of tendinitis and tendon rupture, peripheral neuropathy, and central nervous system effects that can occur together in the same patient.

The labels of fluoroquinolones already had a Boxed Warning for tendinitis, tendon rupture, and worsening myasthenia gravis. The labels also included warnings about the risks of peripheral neuropathy and central nervous system effects. Other serious risks associated with fluoroquinolones are described in the labels, such as cardiac, dermatologic, and hypersensitivity adverse reactions. This information about the risk of disabling and potentially irreversible serious adverse reactions is based on the FDA's review of postmarketing adverse event reports from the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS). This safety information was discussed at a November 5, 2015 joint meeting of the Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee and the Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee.

Prescriber Action:

Health care professionals should not prescribe systemic fluoroquinolones to patients who have other treatment options for acute bacterial sinusitis, acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis, acute uncomplicated cystitis, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections. Health care professionals should encourage patients to read

the Medication Guide that describes the safety issues associated with fluoroquinolones. The Medication Guide is required to be given to the patient with each fluoroquinolone prescription. Stop fluoroquinolone treatment immediately if a patient reports serious side effects, and switch to a non-fluoroquinolone antibacterial drug to complete the patient's treatment course.

Reporting Adverse Events:

Health care professionals are encouraged to report adverse events to FDA's MedWatch reporting system by visiting www.fda.gov/medwatch or calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

If you wish to request further information for AVELOX®, please contact Merck National Service Center at 1-800-526-4099. If you wish to request further information for CIPRO®, please contact Bayer Service Center at 1-888-842-2937.

Please use the links below to access Important Information about AVELOX® and CIPRO® for the complete indication and other important risks. These links include the Prescribing Information, including BOXED WARNINGS and Medication Guide for AVELOX® and CIPRO®.

http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Avelox_PI.pdf

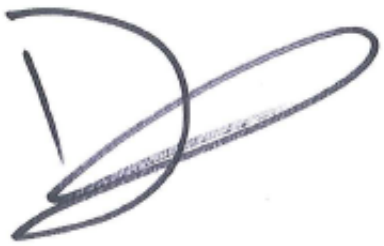
http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Cipro_IV_PI.pdf

http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Cipro_Tabs_OS_PI.pdf

http://labeling.bayerhealthcare.com/html/products/pi/Cipro_XR_PI.pdf

Bayer HealthCare is the license holder for AVELOX® and CIPRO®. Under terms of a marketing agreement, Merck markets AVELOX® in the United States.

Sincerely,



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