Packaging and labelling problems and solutions

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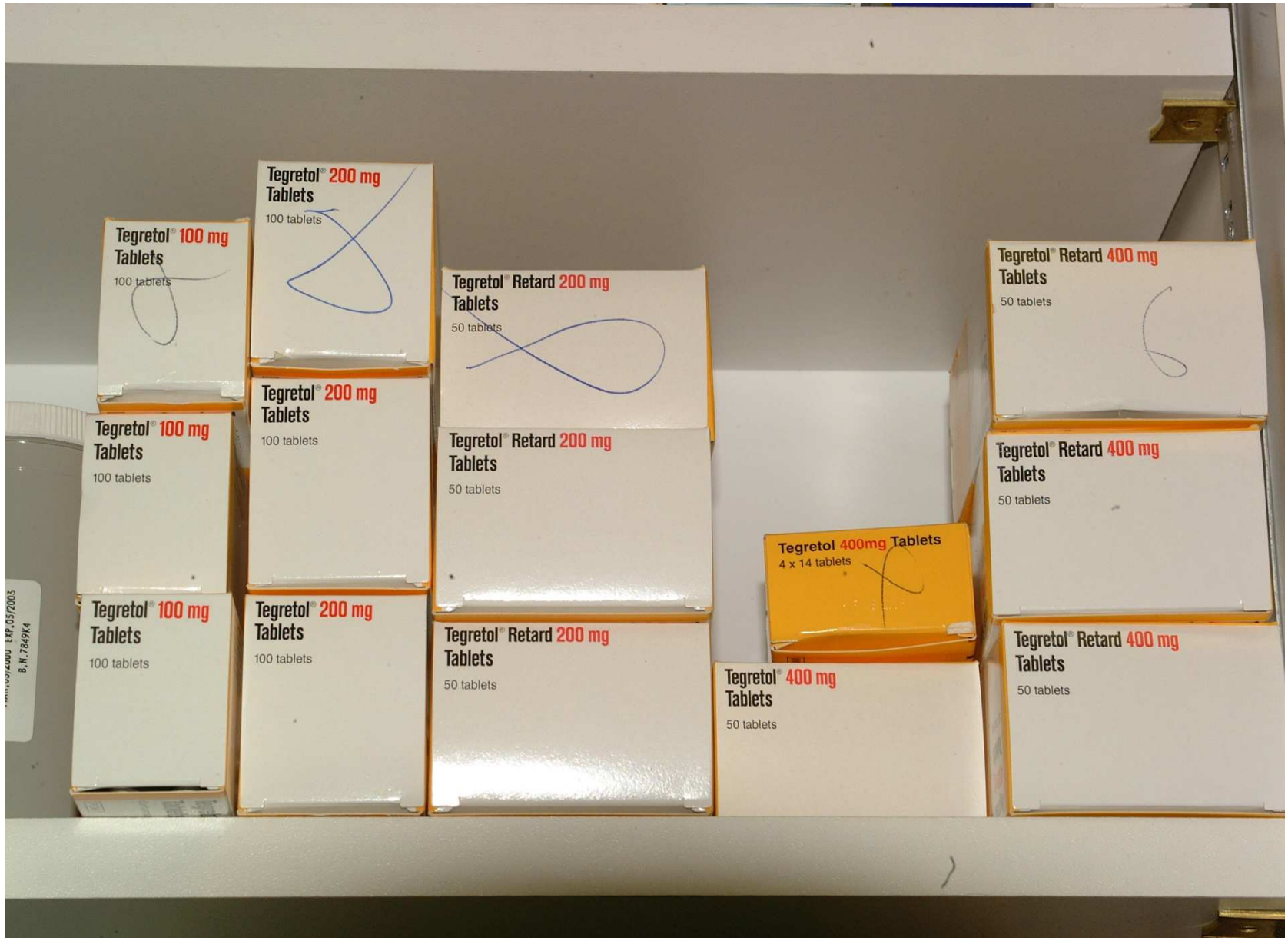
Hospitals

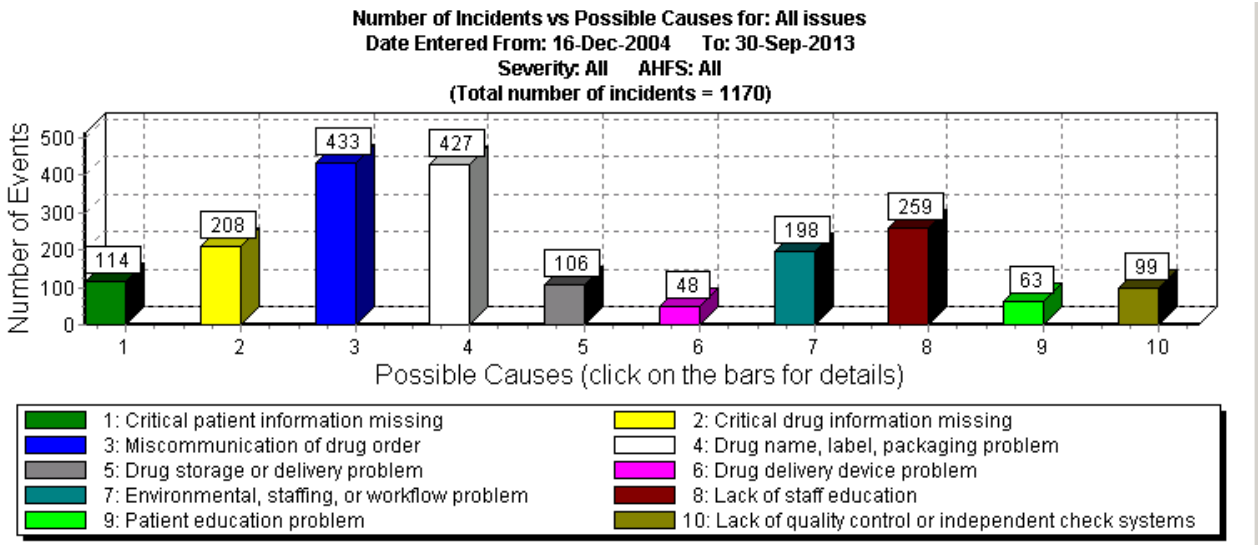
- Drug administration - small part of a nurse’s day; smaller part of a doctor’s
- Human factors, system factors
- Huge number of drugs, limited familiarity
- Time pressure, interruptions, multiple tasks, miscommunication, handovers
- Independent double check
  - Packaging and labelling should help make it clear and easy to do the right thing

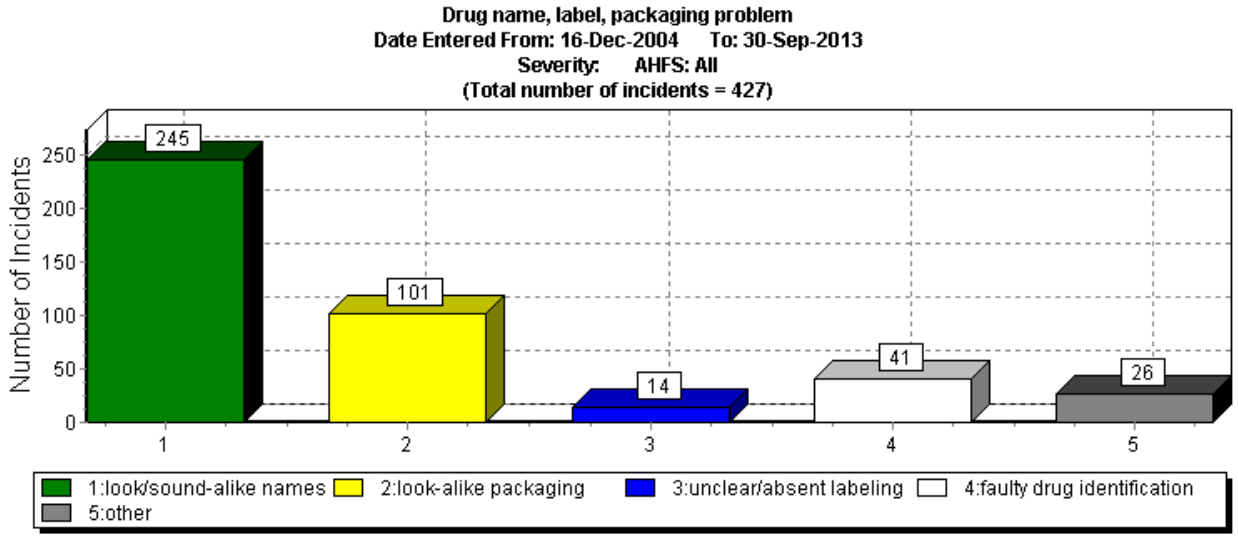


Similar packaging – easy to select wrong strength or formulation (Retard/not)

Strengths of same product looking very similar – 50mg, 75mg, 100mg

Contribution to reported incidents





What have we achieved in Ireland?

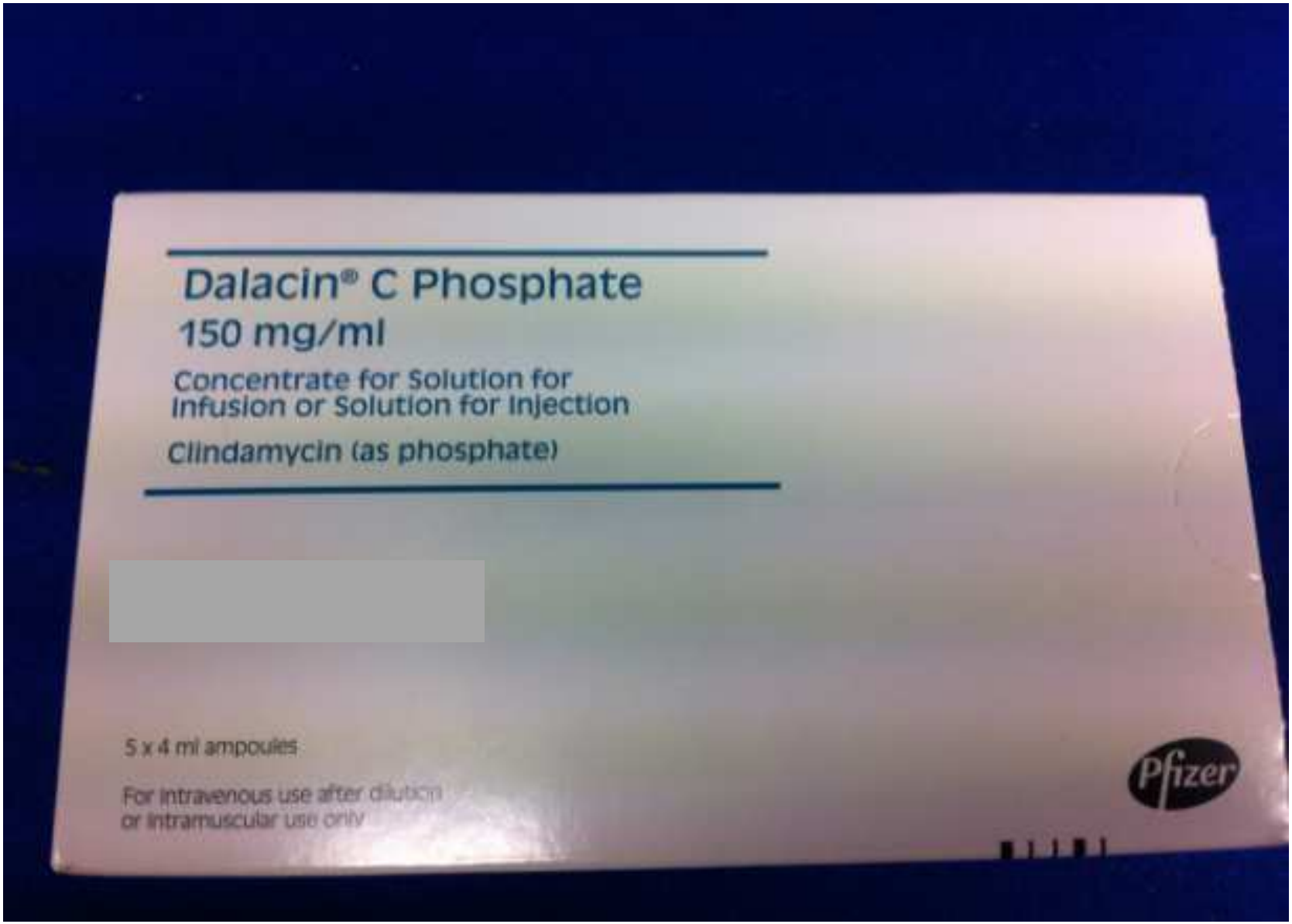
- Notify manufacturers and regulators when errors occur relating to packaging and labelling
- Manufacturers – often respond with positive changes
- Regulators – enforce legal requirements, may support safety changes but not require

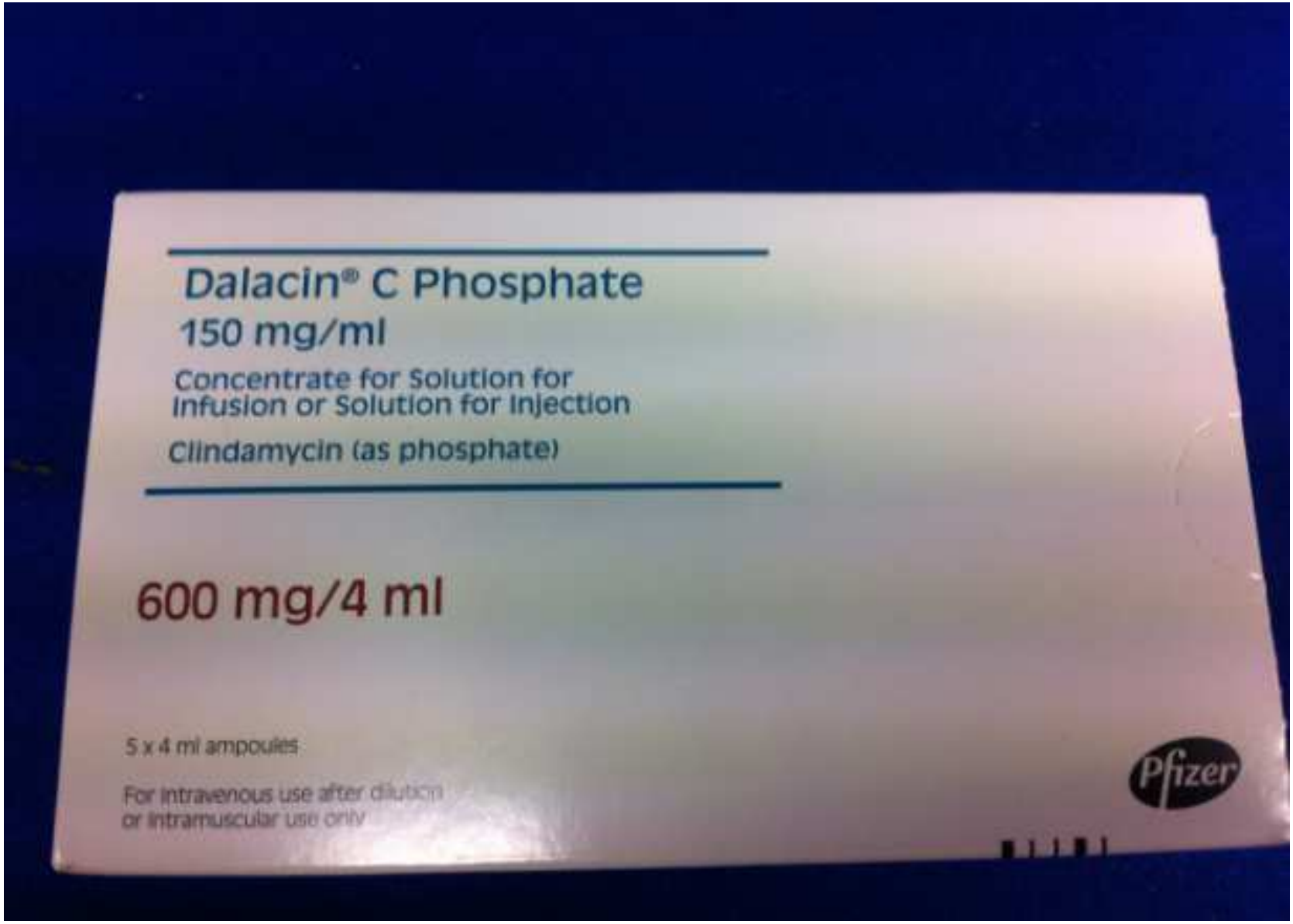

Mini-Plasco®
20 x 10 ml
B BRAUN
Mini-Plasco®
20 x 10 ml
2% w/v Lidocaine/Lignocaine
HCl Inj. BP
20 mg/ml
1 ampoule contains:
Lidocaine Hydrochloride 200 mg
Sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and water for injections.
Sterile.
Discard any unused contents.
Art. no.: 3629783
Batch no.: 1452C13
Expiry date: 04.2005
B BRAUN
Read enclosed Direction carefully.
Caution: Not to be used solution is not clear.
Do not store above 25
Store out of reach of c
POM
4 030539 018
PA holder:
B. Braun Medical Ltd.,
2% w/v Lidocaine/Lignocaine HCl Inj. BP
20 mg/ml 10 ml
Batch no.: 1452C13
Exp. date: 04.2005
B BRAUN
B BRAUN
B. Braun Melsu
D-34209 Melsu
Water for Injections Ph. Eur.
Liquid for the preparation of parenterals 10 ml
Batch:
Expiry date: 1212C11 10.2004
B BRAUN


B BRAUN
Water for Injections Ph. Eur.
20 x 10 ml in
B BRAUN

In our experience, EVERY product containing more than 1 mL which is labelled only with mg/mL, units/mL etc, results in patient overdoses.


Heparin Sodium
Solution for Injection or
Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
Contains preservative
5,000 units in 5ml
For intravenous use
10 vials
Heparin Sodium
Solution for Injection or
Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
Contains preservative
25,000 units in 5ml
For intravenous or subcutaneous use
10 vials
Heparin Sodium
Flushing Solution
For Maintenance of
Patency of Intravenous Devices
10 I.U./ml
50 units in 5ml
For flushing of devices only


Dalacin® C Phosphate
150 mg/ml
Concentrate for Solution for
Infusion or Solution for Injection
Clindamycin (as phosphate)
5 x 4 ml ampoules
For intravenous use after dilution
or intramuscular use only
Pfizer


Dalacin® C Phosphate
150 mg/ml
Concentrate for Solution for
Infusion or Solution for Injection
Clindamycin (as phosphate)
600 mg/4 ml
5 x 4 ml ampoules
For intravenous use after dilution
or intramuscular use only
Pfizer

Education, alerts

Alert

To: All anaesthetists, anaesthetic nurses, theatre nurses
From: Aileen O'Brien, Shane Russell CNMs, Anaesthetics
Ciara Kirke, Drug Safety Coordinator
Date: 1st March 2010
Re: ***Similarity between ephedrine and morphine ampoules***

A new formulation of Ephedrine hydrochloride 30mg in 1mL is now stocked in Theatres and Pharmacy. This is because it is a licensed product. The previous, unlicensed, product is no longer available.

Ephedrine and morphine ampoules are now very similar in appearance.

- Take care to ensure you have selected the correct ampoule.
- Take care to return unused ampoules to the correct box.

IMSN
IRISH MEDICATION SAFETY NETWORK

Briefing Document on

Sound-Alike Look-Alike Drugs (SALADs)

A better way

- Design in safety (NPSA series)
- Failure Modes & Effects Analysis
- Consult users (e.g. Med-ERRS)
  - BEFORE finalise packaging and labelling

- Respond rapidly and effectively to problems in use