

衛生署
藥物註冊組

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(IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE THIS FILE REF.)

Professor Raymond LIANG,
President,
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine,
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road,
Hong Kong.

Dear Professor LIANG,

European Medicines Agency's (EMA)
Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommended restriction on use
of Zerit (stavudine)

Your attention is drawn to the recommendation on restriction on use of Zerit (stavudine) issued by European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP).

Zerit (stavudine) is used in combination with other antiviral medicines to treat adults and children who are infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The CHMP recommended that in view of the side effects seen with Zerit (stavudine), the therapeutic indications should be restricted. The CHMP also recommended that, for both adults and children, the medicine should be used for as short a time as possible and only when there are no appropriate alternatives.

In Hong Kong, there are 7 registered products containing stavudine. In light of the new information, the issue will be discussed in the coming meeting of Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

Please remind your members to report any adverse events caused by the drug to the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Unit of Department of Health (tel. no.: 2319 8633, fax: 2147 0457 or email: adr@dh.gov.hk). For details, please refer to the website: <http://www.psdh.gov.hk> at Pharmaceutical Service under "Reporting an Adverse Drug Reaction".

Yours faithfully,

(Ms Pamela LI)
for Chief Pharmacist