



April 25, 2018

Subject: Reminder for women taking birth control tablets to return any packages for replacement if tablets are missing or broken.

Dear Pharmacists,

Pfizer Canada Inc. is issuing this letter as a general reminder in alignment with a recent Health Canada public advisory¹.

In some recent incidents, birth control packages, including ALESSE (levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol), have been found to have missing tablets, contain broken tablets or to contain additional tablets in the blister cavities. An inappropriate dose due to the above may increase the risk of pregnancy.

Pfizer Canada Inc. reminds pharmacists to advise their patients:

- To verify their birth control tablets before taking the product and to not consume tablets that are broken;
- To take a tablet daily and not skip a dose as missing a dose or taking a broken tablet may increase the risk of pregnancy;
- To return blister packages containing broken, missing or additional tablets (more than one tablet in a blister cavity) to the pharmacy where replacement medication can be obtained;
- Of the proper use of oral contraceptives, as well as proper measures in case of a missed dose;
- There is no need to return their package if it has no broken, missing or additional tablets (more than one tablet in a blister cavity).

Pharmacists are advised to follow their normal dispensing protocols and to remind their patients to always be vigilant in checking their prescription medications prior to consuming them (e.g. to check tablets before taking them and not consume tablets that are broken or with additional tablets in the blister cavity).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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1. Health Canada Public Advisory dated 16 April 2018: http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2018/66510a-eng.php?_ga=2.43508771.700036970.1524070705-1960836785.1524070705