Pharmacist Checklist - Guidance for dispensing Neotigason (acitretin)

Acitretin belongs to the retinoid class of drugs that cause severe birth defects. Foetal exposure to acitretin, even for short periods of time, presents a high risk of congenital malformations and miscarriage.

Acitretin is therefore strictly contraindicated during pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential, unless all conditions in the Acitretin Pregnancy Prevention Programme are fulfilled.

A negative pregnancy test, issuing a prescription and dispensing acitretin should ideally occur on the same day.

If you are aware that a pregnancy has occurred in a woman treated with acitretin, treatment should be stopped immediately and the woman should be promptly referred to the prescribing doctor.

If you are aware that a female patient has become pregnant within 3 years of stopping acitretin, she should be referred to her prescribing doctor.

As the pharmacist, you should only dispense acitretin after checking the following information:

For women of child-bearing potential:	
In order to support regular follow up, including pregnancy testing and monitoring, the prescription for acitretin should ideally be limited to a 30-day supply.	
All patients should be instructed:	
Never to give the acitretin to another person.	
To return any unused capsules to their pharmacist at the end of treatment.	
Not to donate blood during acitretin therapy and for three years after discontinuation due to the potential risk to the foetus of a pregnant transfusion recipient.	

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product.

Please report suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the MHRA through the Yellow Card scheme. You can report via:

- the Yellow Card website, www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard
- the free Yellow Card app available from the
  - → Apple App Store or Google Play Store
  - → some clinical IT systems (EMIS/SystmOne/Vision/MiDatabank) for healthcare professionals

Alternatively, you can report a suspected side effect to the Yellow Card scheme by calling 0800 731 6789 for free, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. You can leave a message outside of these hours.

When reporting please provide as much information as possible. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Adverse events may also be reported to Teva UK Limited via email to medinfo@tevauk.com or via phone on +44 (0) 207 540 7117.

Provided by Teva UK Limited, Ridings Point, Whistler Drive, Castleford, WF10 5HX. United Kingdom