



GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline
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IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED DISPENSING ERRORS ALERT

August 2001

Dear Pharmacist:

GlaxoSmithKline has received reports of prescription dispensing errors involving **LAMICTAL**[®] (lamotrigine) and other medications, most commonly **Lamisil**[®], **lamivudine**, **Ludiomil**[®], **labetalol**, and **Lomotil**[®]. Some epileptic patients needing **LAMICTAL** have mistakenly received other drugs, while other patients prescribed other medications have erroneously received other drugs, while other patients prescribed other medications have erroneously received **LAMICTAL**. No one is more aware of the importance of correctly dispensing prescriptions than pharmacists, and no one is in a better position to help ensure that all patients receive the treatment they need.

Patients with epilepsy who do not receive their antiepileptic drug **LAMICTAL** to control their seizures will be at risk for serious consequences such as status epilepticus. Conversely, patients who do not have epilepsy will be placed at unnecessary risk of adverse events (including serious rash) if they are mistakenly given **LAMICTAL**.

LAMICTAL is an antiepilepsy medication manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline. It is available in both tablets and chewable dispersible tablets, and is usually administered daily in two divided doses.

MATERIALS TO HELP PREVENT DISPENSING ERRORS

GlaxoSmithKline has developed materials for pharmacists and physicians to help prevent dispensing errors. Enclosed please find:

- A "shelf shouter" that can be used to help differentiate **LAMICTAL** from other stocked merchandise
- A sample of a patient-information tear sheet about **LAMICTAL**, which may be given to patients when prescriptions are filled. The tear sheets will facilitate communication between you and your customers and help ensure that patients receive the correct medication

Please review the enclosed materials, then complete and return the enclosed business reply card.
Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR DISPENSING ERRORS

In addition to using the enclosed materials, GlaxoSmithKline offers the following suggestions to help decrease the potential for dispensing errors:

- Place drugs with similar names apart from one another on the shelf
- Confirm the brand name prescribed
- Remind the patient of the brand name and medication
- Provide counseling on how to use the medication properly

If you become aware of a prescription dispensing error involving **LAMICTAL**[®] (lamotrigine) or any of the products mentioned above, please contact GlaxoSmithKline at 1-800-334-4153, the USP Medication Errors Reporting Program at 1-800-233-7767, or the MEDWATCH program by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, by the Internet at www.fda.gov/medwatch, or by mail:

MEDWATCH HF-2
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

For additional information about **LAMICTAL** or to obtain additional Patient-Information tear sheets please contact the GlaxoSmithKline Customer Response Center @ 1-888-825-5249.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Pattishall" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed Pattishall
Vice President
North American Product Surveillance

PLEASE CONSULT THE COMPLETE PRESCRIBING INFORMATION FOR LAMICTAL ENCLOSED.

Lamisil (terbinafine HCl tablets) and Ludiomil (maprotiline HCl) are registered trademarks of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Lomotil (diphenoxylate HCl, atropine sulfate) is a registered trademark of G.D. Searle & Co.

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