

AL12-04*

The software referenced in AL12-04* includes VA Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) v1.0.28.24, Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) Inpatient Medication Package v5.0, VistA Outpatient Pharmacy Package v7.0, and VistA Adverse Reaction Tracking v4.0.

Patient Safety Alert

Veterans Health Administration Warning System
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AL12-04*

February 23, 2012

- Item :** Electronic Order Check(s) may not trigger appropriately for drug-allergy interactions due to updates to drug class files in Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA)/ Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS)
- Specific Incident:** A facility reported that the drug-allergy order check in VistA/CPRS did not trigger appropriately when a patient was ordered a fluoroquinolone type antibiotic for which the patient had a known allergy. The allergy was properly documented in the VistA Adverse Reaction Tracking (ART) System. While no injury occurred in this instance, the risk to a patient receiving a medication they are allergic to ranges from hives (urticaria) to anaphylactic shock and even death.
- General Information:** VistA Patch PSN*4*304 released on November 10, 2011 created a new VA drug class "AM400 QUINOLONES". The quinolone antibiotics were previously located under VA drug class AM900. Existing patient allergies to medications in the quinolone class in the Patient Allergies File (120.8) were not automatically updated to the new VA drug classification with the release of PSN*4*304. Order Checks that use the drug class file to trigger drug-allergy interactions may not trigger appropriately if allergies are not updated to the new classification. Consequently the entry of a new order for a medication in the quinolone VA drug class will not trigger a drug-allergy alert.
- Actions:**
1. By Close of Business (COB) February 24, 2012, the **facility IRM POC (or designee)**, shall install EMERGENCY Patch*4*297, released on February 21, 2012. All instructions for installation sent with the patch should be followed. After installation, there might still be some allergies pointing to a local drug file entry (50), for example if the local drug file entry does not exactly match the text of the NDF entry. These entries if present will not convert to the new class.

2. By Close of Business (COB) March 23, 2012, the **facility IRM POC (or designee) together with the pharmacy ADPAC** shall implement changes to the VistA pharmacy packages to correct these remaining entries.

3. By COB March 30, 2012, the **Patient Safety Manager** must document on the VHA Hazard Alerts and Recalls website that Administration has reviewed and implemented these actions or that they are not applicable to your facility.

Additional Information: Patch PSN*4*297 and the instructions in this alert will only identify and fix problems with allergies and the addition of the new quinolone drug class. PBM is investigating if similar problems may exist with previous drug class updates. Further guidance will be provided if needed.

Source: A Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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