

CLINICAL ALERT

AUGUST | 2022

PharMerica

Magnesium Citrate Expanded Recall and Persistent Shortage

Issue

A national supply disruption has caused an interruption in the dependable availability of **magnesium citrate oral solution**. This Alert follows an earlier [PharMerica Clinical Alert](#) detailing the consumer level recall from just *one* manufacturer. The recall and shortage has expanded to include ALL flavors and lots of magnesium citrate from Vi-Jon – a key supplier of this product – and is currently affecting availability of all potential product. **This supplier provides product for multiple companies' private labels (CVS, Equate, Harris Teeter, Major, Rite Aid, Walgreens, etc.).**

Products Affected

Magnesium citrate oral solution, Vi-Jon; ALL BRANDS. See [FDA Recall Notice](#) for full list of affected products.

Reason for Recall

Risk Statement: Immunocompromised patients, who consume this product, may be at increased risk for invasive infections caused by *Gluconacetobacter liquefaciens* that could lead to serious, life-threatening adverse health consequences. To date, Vi-Jon, LLC is aware of 3 (three) reports of serious adverse reactions potentially related to this recall. Vi-Jon, LLC is in the process of investigating these reports.

Estimated Resupply Date(s)

Distributing companies cannot estimate when additional product will be available.

Action Steps

PharMerica Pharmacies

- If orders for affected product were generated and sent to facilities, pharmacy to pick up the affected product.
- Check inventory for affected product, to quarantine and return per pharmacy policy.
- Respond to orders for magnesium citrate oral solution with message to facility for prescriber to provide order for alternative laxative medication (see *Abridged Clinical Considerations* section and *Additional Resources* below).

Facilities

- Check on-hand stock (including E-Kits) for affected NDC, Lot Number and Expiration Dates from PharMerica.
- Check on-hand stock for affected NDC, Lot Number and Expiration Dates for purchases of product from vendors other than PharMerica.
- Remove affected products from all areas and segregate for return to the originating vendor (PharMerica or other pharmacy) and notify *that* vendor of any recalled stock for pick up.
- If adverse reactions or infections are experienced with the use of this product:
 - Submit a report online to www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm
- Timely contact prescribers to obtain alternative laxative medication orders when magnesium citrate oral solution is prescribed.

Abridged Clinical Considerations*

- Magnesium Citrate is used for colonoscopy bowel prep and for relief of occasional constipation (irregularity).
- **Bowel Prep**
 - Magnesium Citrate is *NOT* recommended as part of a bowel preparation by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy due to limited efficacy and potential toxicity.
 - *If* additional bowel preparation is required beyond the usual PEG and bisacodyl options, consider prescription **oral sodium sulfate (Suprep)**.

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- **Constipation**
 - Consider alternative therapies within the same therapeutic class – **osmotic laxatives** – for similar mechanism of action (function by drawing water in the lumen to increase intestinal peristalsis).
 - **Magnesium hydroxide (Milk of Magnesia)**
 - Oral Chewable tablet – Magnesium hydroxide 1,200 mg/tablet
 - 2 to 4 tablets once daily or in divided doses; do not exceed 4 tablets in 24 hours.
 - Oral Liquid – Magnesium hydroxide 400 mg/5 mL
 - 30 to 60 mL/day once daily at bedtime or in divided doses.
 - Oral Liquid – Magnesium hydroxide 800 mg/5 mL
 - 15 to 30 mL/day once daily at bedtime or in divided doses.
 - Oral Liquid – Magnesium hydroxide 1,200 mg/5 mL
 - 10 to 20 mL/day once daily at bedtime or in divided doses.
 - *NOT good for bowel prep because it is opaque*
 - **Lactulose (Kristalose)**
 - Oral: 10 to 20 g (15 to 30 mL or 1 to 2 packets) daily; may increase to 40 g (60 mL or 2 to 4 packets) daily if necessary.
 - **Sodium phosphate (Fleet Enema)**
 - Rectal: Contents of one 4.5 oz enema as a single dose.
 - **Polyethylene Glycol 3350 (MiraLAX)**
 - Oral: 17 g (~1 heaping tablespoon) dissolved in 120 to 240 mL (4 to 8 ounces) of beverage, once daily.

Additional Resources

- [FDA Recall Notification: VI-Jon, LLC Expands Voluntary Worldwide Recall of All Flavors and Lots within Expiry of Magnesium Citrate Saline Laxative Oral Solution Due to Microbial Contamination](#)
- [ASHP Recall Notification: Magnesium Citrate Oral Solution](#)

**Information provided herein is purposefully abbreviated for clarity. Please refer to products' full prescribing information for complete details prior to prescribing any pharmaceutical product.*