

2 May 2023

SIMULECT® (basiliximab): Do not use WFI ampoules co-packed with vials of sterile freeze-dried powder of Simulect 10mg and 20mg

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Novartis in agreement with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the <National Competent Authority> would like to inform you of the following:

Summary

- **Particles have been found in some ampoules of water for injection (WFI) that are co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials. The particles are intrinsic and do not affect the vials of Simulect.**
- **WFI ampoules co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials must therefore not be used to reconstitute Simulect powder. This applies also to any already distributed pack of Simulect co-packed with an affected WFI ampoule to any department within hospitals.**
- **The reconstitution must be performed with a new unimpacted (not co-packed) ampoule by the pharmacy or the hospital department prior to administration to the patient. WFI (Water for Injections compliant with European Pharmacopoeia, without any additives) from another source must be used instead.**
- **Novartis is confident about the quality of vials containing Simulect powder (the vials comply fully with specifications) and that they can be administered without any associated risk by using an alternative WFI source (Water for Injections compliant with European Pharmacopoeia, without any additives).**
- **Health Care Professionals must discard the impacted WFI ampoules co-packed with impacted batches of Simulect (listed in Table 1) at the time of opening the pack, and send Novartis the confirmation, including the number of discarded ampoules, to assure reconciliation.**

Background Information

Simulect is indicated for the prophylaxis of acute organ rejection in *de novo* allogeneic renal transplantation in adult and paediatric patients (1-17 years). It is to be used concomitantly with ciclosporin for microemulsion- and corticosteroid-based immunosuppression, in patients with panel reactive antibodies less than 80%, or in a triple maintenance immunosuppressive regimen containing ciclosporin for microemulsion, corticosteroids and either azathioprine or mycophenolate mofetil.

In the course of an ongoing investigation, Novartis identified the potential presence of intrinsic particles in WFI ampoules co-packed with marketed Simulect product (see figure 1). The two identified impacted batches of WFI (M2139 and M0797) were co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials into finished product batches distributed by Novartis (impacted batches of Simulect of EU countries and Norway are listed in table 1). Novartis therefore requests you not to use the WFI ampoules co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials but to use WFI ampoules (Water for Injections compliant with European Pharmacopoeia, without any additives) from another source.

Table 1

Simulect batches co-packed with WFI Batch M2139

| Material | Batch | Country |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 AT | SHRV4 | Austria |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BE | SHTR6 | Belgium |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BG | SHUH3 | Bulgaria |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 HR | SHTR7 | Croatia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 HR | SJCA1 | Croatia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R29 | SHYM6 | Cyprus |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R47 | SHYM5 | Czechia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 FRH | SHRV7 | France |
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 FRH | SHWE1 | France |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 DE | SHXJ4 | Germany |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 DE | SHWC2 | Germany |
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 DE | SHTU9 | Germany |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89 | SHRN9 | Ireland |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ITH | SHTC7 | Italy |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL | SHRN8 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL | SHVJ6 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 NL | SHTU8 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 NL | SHXU9 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 R43 | SHTR9 | Norway |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PL | SHXJ1 | Poland |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PL | SHTR8 | Poland |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT | SHTJ3 | Portugal |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT | SHWE7 | Portugal |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R47 | SHTV1 | Slovakia, Czechia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 SI | SHTJ2 | Slovenia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ES | SHXX1 | Spain |

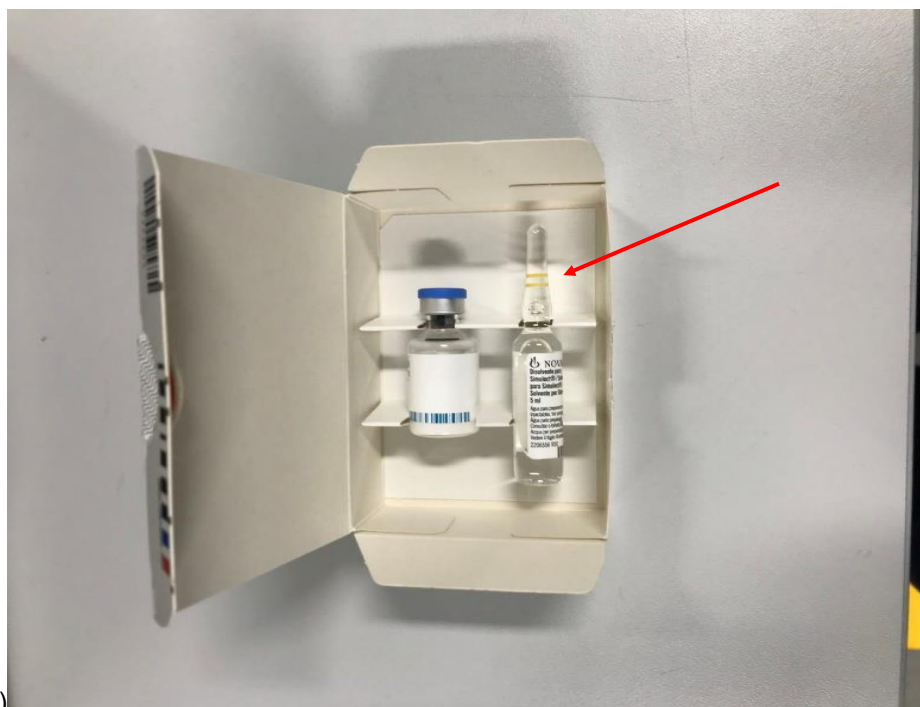
Simulect batches co-packed with WFI Batch M0797

| Material Short Text | Batch | Country |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 AT | SFUR6 | Austria |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BE | SFUJ4 | Belgium |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BE | SHJR9 | Belgium |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BG | SFWD9 | Bulgaria |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 BG | SHFV8 | Bulgaria |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R47 | SHDD4 | Czechia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG GLW 1+1 R43 | SHMC6 | Denmark |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 FRH | SFYM5 | France |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 FRH | SHDL4 | France |
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 FRH | SHFH8 | France |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 DE | SHHD3 | Germany |

| Material Short Text | Batch | Country |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 DE | SHET4 | Germany |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R29 | SHMM1 | Greece |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 HU | SHDD3 | Hungary |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89 | SHLR4 | Ireland, Malta |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89 | SHDM5 | Ireland, Malta |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R89 | SHFV1 | Ireland, United Kingdom |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ITH | SFUJ3 | Italy |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ITH | SHFV6 | Italy |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 R07\WST | SHPD1 | Latvia |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL | SFXV4 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 NL | SHJV8 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 10MG 1+1 NL | SFXJ2 | Netherlands |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PL | SFXV7 | Poland |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT | SHDD2 | Portugal |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 PT | SHJV7 | Portugal |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 RO | SHFV7 | Romania |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 RO | SFYL9 | Romania |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ES | SHDD5 | Spain |
| SIMULECT LYVI 20MG 1+1 ES | SHFX7 | Spain |

To date, no cases have been retrieved with either quality complaints or any adverse events with the impacted batches from the Novartis global safety database.

Figure 1: Presentation of impacted WFI ampoule co-packed with Simulect 10mg and 20mg vials (ampoule pointed with red arrow).



Potential risk associated

Glass particles provisionally identified as small (up to 800 µm) glass fragments were identified in WFI for the impacted batches in the course of the ongoing investigation.

Actions to be taken by Health Care Professionals

1. Health Care Professionals can continue to safely administer the impacted Simulect batches listed in the table 1 provided the WFI co-packed with the product is **not used** to reconstitute Simulect powder. A WFI ampoule from an alternative source, that complies with European Pharmacopoeia requirements for Water for Injections without any additives, must be used instead.
2. Health Care Professionals must discard the impacted WFI ampoules co-packed with impacted batches of Simulect (listed in table 1) at the time of opening the pack, and send Novartis the confirmation, including the number of discarded ampoules, to assure reconciliation (please refer to Annex 1).
3. Health Care Professionals are requested to provide Novartis with the currently available quantity of the Simulect batches listed in Table 1 at their premises.
4. If other facilities or departments within a hospital or clinic use this product, a copy of this information should be forwarded to them.
5. Healthcare professionals should complete the enclosed Customer Reply Form (Annex 1) and return it to Novartis by emailing it into the mailbox, <Countries need to include local mailbox> as indicated, **within 1 working day**. Returning the customer reply form promptly will confirm receipt of this notification and prevent from receiving repeat notices.

Call for reporting

Please kindly report any quality problem or any adverse event associated with this product as per normal established processes.

Company Contact Point

<Contact point details for access to further information, including relevant website address(es), telephone numbers and a postal address>

Annex

Annex 1 - Simulect WFI Customer Reply Form