

September 2021

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**Subject: Temporary Supply Shortage Actemra® (tocilizumab) 20 mg/mL Concentrate for Solution for Infusion (IV) and Recommendations to Manage Potential Risks Due to Interruption in Treatment for Patients**

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Dear Health Care Provider:

Genentech, Inc., a Member of the Roche Group, in agreement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), would like to provide an update on the temporary supply shortage for Actemra 20 mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (IV) we have been experiencing since August 16, 2021, due to an unprecedented increase in demand, and to provide you with information you may use to mitigate any potential risks due to interruption of treatment in patients during this supply shortage. This supply shortage is not due to any safety concern.

Actemra IV 400 mg/20 mL vials (NDC 50242-0137-01), 200 mg/10 mL vials (NDC 50242-0136-01) and 80 mg/4 mL vials (NDC 50242-0135-01) are in short supply with intermittent patient level stockouts. While the current stockouts are temporary and replenishments have been scheduled, if the pandemic continues to spread at its current pace, we anticipate additional periods of intermittent stockout in the weeks and months ahead.

Genentech is urgently working to increase manufacturing capacity and supply by extending the production network, and through active collaboration with external partners. Genentech has considered various options for how to best manage this gap between supply and demand in the context of a global pandemic that is ongoing and continues to evolve. The situation is being monitored on a continual basis.

**Approved and Authorized Indications**

Actemra IV is indicated for the treatment of:

- Adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have had an inadequate response to one or more Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs)
- Patients 2 years of age and older with active polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (pJIA)
- Patients 2 years of age and older with active systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA)
- Adult and pediatric patients 2 years of age and older with chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell-induced severe or life-threatening cytokine release syndrome (CRS)

Actemra IV is authorized for emergency use under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in hospitalized adults and pediatric

patients (2 years of age and older) who are receiving systemic corticosteroids and who require supplemental oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). Actemra is not FDA-approved for this use. Actemra is authorized only for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of the emergency use of Actemra under section 564(b)(1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3(b)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

### **Additional Information for Prescribers**

- During this supply interruption, consider re-assessing your patient's current overall disease condition and treatment regimen.
- A risk of "flare-up" (increased disease activity/worsening symptoms) in the approved indications for Actemra IV (RA, pJIA, sJIA) cannot be excluded if patients miss one or more scheduled doses of Actemra due to this temporary shortage. For RA, pJIA and sJIA patients on Actemra IV at risk of a flare-up, consider initiating tocilizumab administered subcutaneously (SC) (Actemra single-dose prefilled syringe or single-dose prefilled ACTPen® autoinjector) at the next scheduled IV dose in accordance with the information on transitioning patients as described in Actemra's full Prescribing Information.
- For all approved and authorized indications for Actemra IV, healthcare providers should use clinical judgement in considering available alternative treatment options, referring to clinical guidelines (refs 1-5) and hospital/clinic protocols when appropriate.

### **Reporting Adverse Events and Product Complaints**

Health Care Providers should report any adverse events and product complaints suspected to be associated with the use of Actemra to Genentech at 1-888-835-2555 and 1-800-334-0290, respectively.

Alternatively, this information may be reported to FDA's MedWatch reporting system by phone (1-800-FDA-1088) or online ([www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch)).

### **Company Contact Point**

Should you have any questions about the clinical information in this letter or the safe and effective use of Actemra, please contact the Genentech Medical Information/Communications Department at (800) 821-8590.

For updates on Actemra IV supply, please contact the Genentech Customer Service line at (800) 551-2231 or go to <http://www.gene.com/purchasingactemra>.

This letter is not intended as a complete description of the benefits and risks related to the use of Actemra. Please refer to the full [Prescribing Information, including BOXED WARNING, and Medication Guide](#). Also refer to the Actemra Emergency Use [Letter of Authorization](#), [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) and [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents and Caregivers](#).

Sincerely,



Jamie Freedman MD, PhD  
Head of U.S. Medical Affairs

## References:

1. American College of Rheumatology clinical practice guidelines available at: <https://www.rheumatology.org/>
2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®): Guidelines for Immunotherapy-related toxicity management - CAR T-Cell-Related Toxicities, are available at: <https://www.nccn.org/>.
3. World Health Organization (WHO): The WHO has issued guidelines for the treatment of COVID-19, available at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.
4. National Institutes of Health (NIH): The NIH has issued guidelines for the treatment of COVID-19, available at <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/statement-on-tocilizumab/>.
5. Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA): The IDSA has issued guidelines for the treatment of COVID-19, available at <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/covid-19-guideline-treatment-and-management/>.