



## IMPORTANT DRUG INFORMATION

December 19, 2016

**Subject: ERWINAZE<sup>®</sup> Batch 179K- Notice of Special Handling Instructions  
For Intramuscular Administration Only  
Use a 5-micron filter needle for preparation of vials of ERWINAZE<sup>®</sup>  
(asparaginase *Erwinia chrysanthemi*) from BATCH 179K**

Dear Health Care Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to alert you that ERWINAZE (asparaginase *Erwinia chrysanthemi*) from Batch 179K should be administered intramuscularly only and that you will need to use a 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted ERWINAZE product from the vials. This is because particulate matter was observed in some vials from this batch. Because of the critical necessity of this drug, Jazz Pharmaceuticals is asking health care providers to take these necessary steps for patient safety.

During routine visual inspections of ERWINAZE Batch 179K, particulate matter was observed in some vials. These affected vials were set aside and not released. However, there remains a possibility that some of the released vials may contain particulate matter, which, if present in reconstituted ERWINAZE, may pose a safety risk to patients.

In order to minimize the potential risk of adverse events, health care providers should administer vials from Batch 179K by intramuscular administration only, not by intravenous administration. Additionally, healthcare providers should continue to use a standard 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted ERWINAZE product from the vial, and then discard the filter needle and replace it with an appropriate needle prior to administration.

Please follow the instructions below prior to withdrawing the reconstituted ERWINAZE product from the vials and administering it to patients.

- **Prior to reconstitution, carefully inspect each vial. If you observe particulate matter anywhere in the vial, quarantine the vial. If you do not observe particulate matter in the vials, reconstitute the product as set forth below.**
- **Follow all recommended steps for reconstitution of ERWINAZE in accordance with the Prescribing Information.**
- **Carefully inspect reconstituted product. In the event that you discover visible particulate matter in the reconstituted product, do not administer to the patient and quarantine the vial.**
- **If no visible particulate matter is seen in the reconstituted product, use a standard 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted product from the vial. See filter needle manufacturer's instructions or usage guidelines for proper use of filter needle.**
- **Discard the filter needle and replace with an appropriate needle prior to patient administration. Do not transfer to an IV infusion bag. Administer intramuscularly only.**
- **If you see particulate matter anywhere in the vial, do not administer to the patient and quarantine the vial. Contact Jazz Pharmaceuticals Medical Information at 1-800-520-5568 to report the issue and to discuss appropriate resolution.**

The following label, attached to the carton, can identify vials from ERWINAZE Batch 179K:

**FOR INTRAMUSCULAR ADMINISTRATION ONLY**  
**REQUIRES 5-MICRON FILTER NEEDLE FOR PREPARATION**  
**SEE INCLUDED IMPORTANT DRUG INFORMATION LETTER**

Vials from ERWINAZE Batch 179K can also be identified by numbering on the individual vial labels. Vials from the affected batch will have one of the following lot numbers: 179K116, 179K216, 179K316, or 178K416.

Please ensure your staff and any provider in your institution who may be involved in the reconstitution and administration of ERWINAZE receives a copy of this letter and specifically reviews the Updated Instructions for Preparation appended to this letter. Please pay special attention to the updates in steps #1- #7 that include observation of particulate matter and the use of a 5-micron filter needle to withdraw the reconstituted ERWINAZE, and intramuscular administration only.

***Further Information***

Please see accompanying Full Prescribing Information for ERWINAZE.

For more information, visit [www.erwinaze.com](http://www.erwinaze.com) or call 1-800-520-5568.

***Call for reporting***

Healthcare providers should report product quality problems and all suspected adverse events associated with the use of ERWINAZE. If you become aware of a patient experiencing an adverse event while taking ERWINAZE or product quality problems with ERWINAZE, please contact Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1-800-520-5568. Adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of this product may also be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting Program either online, or regular mail, or by fax:

- Complete and submit the report **Online:** [www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm)
- Regular mail or Fax: Download form [www.fda.gov/MedWatch/getforms.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedWatch/getforms.htm) or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on the pre-addressed form, or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noam Frey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Noam Frey, MD MBA

Vice President, Medical Affairs

Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

## Updated Instructions for Preparation: ERWINAZE Batch 179K Vial

### Preparation and Handling Instructions

1. Carefully inspect each vial. If you observe particulate matter, quarantine the vial. If you do not observe particulate matter, reconstitute the product as follows.
2. Reconstitute the contents of each vial by slowly injecting 1 or 2 mL of preservative free sterile sodium chloride (0.9%) injection (USP) against the inner vial wall.
3. Do not forcefully inject solution for reconstitution directly onto or into the powder. When reconstituted with 1 mL the resultant concentration is 10,000 International Units per mL. When reconstituted with 2 mL the resultant concentration is 5,000 International Units per mL.
4. Dissolve contents by gentle mixing or swirling. **Do not shake or invert vial.**
5. When reconstituted, ERWINAZE should be a clear, colorless solution. Inspect the solution after reconstitution for any visible particles or protein aggregates, if you observe particulate matter in the reconstituted product, quarantine the vial.
6. Calculate the dose needed and the volume needed to obtain the calculated dose.
7. Withdraw the volume containing the calculated dose from the vial **using a 5-micron filter needle** (according to the filter needle manufacturer's instructions) into a polypropylene syringe within 15 minutes of reconstitution. Discard the filter needle and replace with an appropriate needle prior to administration.
8. If a partial vial is used, do not save or reuse the unused drug for later administration. Discard unused portions.
9. Do not freeze or refrigerate reconstituted solution and administer within 4 hours or discard [see Prescribing Information - How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16)].
10. If you see particulate matter anywhere other than the underside of the stopper

(pre- or post- reconstitution), do not administer to the patient and quarantine the vial. Contact Jazz Pharmaceuticals Medical Information at 1-800-520-5568 to report the issue and to discuss appropriate resolution.

**Administration Instructions for ERWINAZE Batch 179K**

ERWINAZE solution may be administered by intramuscular injection only. Do not administer by intravenous infusion.

- For intramuscular use, limit the volume of reconstituted ERWINAZE at a single injection site to 2 mL; if reconstituted dose to be administered is greater than 2 mL, use multiple injection sites.