

**From:** Amgen Inc.  
**To:** <Pharmacist Email>  
**Subject:** WARNING: Serious Risks Associated with BLINCYTO®



## BLINCYTO® (blinatumomab) REMS

### FDA-REQUIRED REMS SAFETY INFORMATION

**Risk of:**

- **Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), which may be life-threatening or fatal**
- **Neurological Toxicities, which may be severe, life-threatening or fatal**
- **Preparation and Administration Errors**

August 2016

Dear Pharmacist:

The FDA has required this safety notice as part of the **BLINCYTO® REMS** (**R**isk **E**valuation and **M**itigation **S**trategy) to inform you about the serious risks of BLINCYTO.

#### **BOXED WARNING: Cytokine Release Syndrome**

- Serious adverse events that may be associated with CRS included **pyrexia, headache, nausea, asthenia, hypotension, increased alanine aminotransferase, increased aspartate aminotransferase, and increased total bilirubin.**
- The highest elevation of cytokines was observed in the first 2 days following start of BLINCYTO infusion.
- Hospitalization is recommended for the first 9 days of the first cycle and the first 2 days of the second cycle.

#### **BOXED WARNING: Neurological Toxicities**

- In patients receiving BLINCYTO in clinical trials, neurological toxicities have occurred in approximately 64% of patients.
- The median time to onset of any neurological toxicity was 4 days.
- Grade 3 or higher (severe, life-threatening or fatal) neurological toxicities following initiation of BLINCYTO administration occurred in approximately 17% of patients and included **encephalopathy, convulsions, speech disorders, disturbances in consciousness, confusion and disorientation, and coordination and balance disorders**. The majority of events resolved following interruption of BLINCYTO, but some resulted in treatment discontinuation.

**Monitor patients closely for signs and symptoms of these events and interrupt or discontinue dosing of BLINCYTO.**

#### **OTHER SERIOUS RISKS: Preparation and Administration Errors**

- **It is very important that the instruction for preparation (including admixing) and administration are strictly followed to minimize medication errors (including underdose and overdose).**
- Please note that the recommended dose for BLINCYTO is by patient weight. Patients greater than or equal to 45 kg receive a fixed-dose and for patients less than 45 kg, the dose is calculated using the patient's body surface area (BSA).

#### **Special Considerations to Support Accurate Preparation**

- IV Solution Stabilizer is provided and is used to coat the prefilled IV bag prior to addition of reconstituted BLINCYTO.
- Reconstitute BLINCYTO with Sterile Water for Injection, USP, only.
- Aseptic technique must be done in a USP <797> compliant facility and strictly observed when preparing the solution for infusion since BLINCYTO does not contain antimicrobial preservatives.
- Use the specific volumes described in the admixing instructions.
- **Please see the full Prescribing Information for important details on preparation and administration, including storage requirements for BLINCYTO.**

Please see the non-promotional REMS Fact Sheet, reviewed by the FDA available at [www.blincyto.rems.com](http://www.blincyto.rems.com) and the full Prescribing Information for more detailed safety information. Additional copies of the Fact Sheet and other important information are available at: [www.blincyto.rems.com](http://www.blincyto.rems.com).

BLINCYTO is a bispecific CD19-directed CD3 T-cell engager indicated for the treatment of Philadelphia chromosome-negative relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

To review the Prescribing Information and Medication Guide, see links below:

[Prescribing Information](#)

[Medication Guide](#)

## **REPORTING ADVERSE EVENTS**

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088. Healthcare Providers should report all suspected adverse events associated with BLINCYTO to the FDA or to Amgen at 1-800-77-AMGEN (1-800-772-6436).

Sincerely,

Isma Benattia, MD, MBE  
Vice President, Global Patient Safety

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- Neurological Toxicities, which may be severe, life-threatening or fatal
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August 2016

Dear Healthcare Provider:

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