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Form MG11(T)

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: FLETCHER, JULIA

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: MEDICINES / PHARMASIST

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: J FLETCHER Date: 30/11/2004

I am employed by the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust as a Medicines Information Manager. I have been so employed since July 2002.

I work at the Queen Alexandra Hospital within the Pharmacy Department.

I obtained a degree in pharmacy at the Bath University in 1992.

I then completed 1 year pre-registration training at the South Manchester University Teaching Hospitals.

I registered with the Pharmaceutical Society in 1993; I then completed a 2 year post graduate diploma in clinical pharmacy at Nottingham University which finished in 1996.

I have been asked to provide information about the drug Nozinan.

Nozinan is the brand name for Leromepromazine which is produced by Link Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

It resembles pharmacologically, phenothiazine anti-psychotics.

Nozinan is used for relief of pain, distress and agitation associated with terminal illness. This drug is licensed for the use and management of terminally ill patients.

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To my knowledge this drug has been available for a number of years.

Nozinan possesses the following properties.

1) Anti Emetic (anti sickness) effect
2) Anti histaminic effects
3) Anti adrenalin activity
4) Has strong sedative effects

Nozinan is especially useful when lung function is poor as it does not significantly cause respiratory depression.

Nozinan can be administered orally, intravenously, intra-muscularly or by continuous subcutaneous infusion.

Oral dose is available in tablet form as a 25mg strength. Dose range for subcutaneous infusion would normally be 25-200 mgs over 24 hours.

This would depend upon the condition and individual response of the patient.

Dosage should be reviewed according to the level of agitation, sedation and respiratory rate of the patient.

Caution should be exercised in the following circumstances:-

1) If the patient has significant level of cardiac disease or hepatic (liver) impairment
2) Cardiac rhythm disturbance (basically abnormal hear rhythm)
3) Metabolic disturbances (eg low or high potassium, calcium, or magnesium blood levels)

It is a recommendation from the manufacturer to perform an (ECG) electro cardiogram and correct metabolic disturbances prior to administration of the drug.

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Administration instructions are normally provided with each product (package inserts).

Nozinan possibly interacts with some anti-depressants other anti psychotics and some anti arrhythmics to increase the risk of cardiac rhythm disturbances.

The side effects of Nozinan include

1) Hypotension (falls in blood pressure). Especially in elderly patients.
2) Extra pyramidal side effects (Parkinsonian like symptoms) and 3) rarely cardiac rhythm disturbances
4) There are minor effects of a dry mouth, somnolence, skin reactions (ie photosensitivity) also constipation.

Depending on the route of administration (orally or injected). Nozinan will reach its peak blood level (effect) around 2-3 hours after dosing.

Should this drug be discontinued it will take approximately 30 hours to reduce the blood level by half (half life).

Dosage recommendations are the same for adults and the elderly.

Taken by: **Code A**