Medication Safety Notice

Issued by Medicines and Technology Programs, SA Health
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicationsafety

A patient **Safety Notice** strongly advises the implementation of particular recommendations or solutions to improve quality and safety.

We recommend you inform:

- Chief Executives
- General Managers
- Infectious Diseases
- Clinical Immunology
- Directors of Pharmacy
- Medical Directors
- Nursing/Midwifery Directors
- Safety and Quality Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Medical Officers
- Pharmacists
- Nurses/Midwives

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Government of South Australia
SA Health

Ceftriaxone – cluster of reported severe reactions

Purpose:

To raise awareness of the potential occurrence of unexpected atypical infusion-related reactions associated with ceftriaxone.

Background:

- The Royal Adelaide Hospital has had several cases reported involving significant reactions to ceftriaxone.
- Patients affected have had no record of previous allergies/reactions, and the reactions occurred within minutes of administration.
- The reported cases may be the result of hypersensitivity/anaphylactic reactions and their occurrence in a cluster has raised concerns.

Action required by SA Health professionals:

1. The recent reported cases are isolated incidents, and this DOES NOT MEAN that ceftriaxone should be avoided if clinically indicated.
2. Should patients experience a reaction to ceftriaxone, local anaphylaxis guidelines should be followed. Clinical Immunology/Infectious Diseases should be contacted as required for ongoing optimal patient treatment advice.
3. Known previous reactions to penicillin should be carefully considered when prescribing ceftriaxone. Refer to Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy fact sheet: Penicillin Allergy and seek advice from Infectious Diseases/ Clinical Immunology if required.
4. Ensure documented information about previous and new adverse drug reactions is available and checked at all points of care – including prescribing, dispensing and administration.
5. If an adverse reaction is observed it should be reported through the Safety Learning System (SLS) and to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Action Required by SA Health Services:

1. Health Services should ensure systems are in place to comply with the SA Health Policy Directive - Preventing Adverse Drug Events

Additional Resources:

1. Policy GUIDELINE - Preventing Adverse Drug Events

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