



Our ref.: HKDU/145/2010

7 July 2010

By fax and mail

Mr. Shane Solomon  
Chief Executive  
Hospital Authority  
Hospital Authority Building  
147 Argyle Street  
Kowloon

Dear Mr. Solomon,

On behalf of The Drug Safety Consortium comprising of member associations of the Hong Kong Doctors Union, The Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong, Alliance for Patients Mutual Support Organization and Retina Hong Kong, we would like to request for your kind reply to our letter dated 11 June 2010.[1]

In regards to the claim made by the HA in the letter dated 23 May 2010 [2], that "International studies have also shown that Bevacizumab (Avastin) is safe and efficacious in treating wet AMD", doctors, pharmacists and patients are eagerly awaiting for the HA to substantiate its claims, by providing the evidence from clinically significant trials to demonstrate the safety of unapproved formed or repackaged forms of Avastin to treat wet AMD, as requested in our letter dated 23 May 2010.[2]

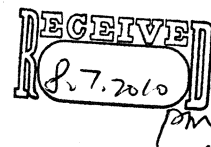
In our letter, we had urged the HA to promptly provide the requested information to us by 30 June 2010 for our reference and evaluation but we have not yet received any reply from the HA regarding this important patient safety matter relating to the safety levels of drug products. We would like the HA to provide the information as requested by 20 July 2010 for our reference and for further evaluation by drug safety experts.

Should the HA not be able to provide the requested information by the indicated date, we would need to come to the conclusion that the HA has no clinically significant evidence to support its claim about the safety of Avastin to treat wet AMD and we would need to request the HA to retract their letter dated 23 May 2010 [2], which may have made an inaccurate statement that "International studies have also shown that Bevacizumab (Avastin) is safe and efficacious in treating wet AMD", in order to avoid further confusion to the public about the true safety levels of Avastin as an off-label treatment for wet AMD.

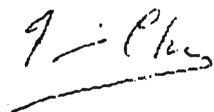
Thank you for your kind attention to this urgent and important matter regarding the drug and patient safety.

Yours faithfully,

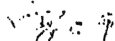
Dr. Yeung Chiu-Fat  
President  
Hong Kong Doctors Union



Cont.../P. 2



Ms. Iris Chang  
President  
The Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong



Mr. K.P. Tsang  
Chairman  
Retina Hong Kong

cc: Mr. Anthony T.Y. Wu, Chairman, Hospital Authority  
Dr. Chow Yat Ngok, York, Secretary for Food and Health, Food and Health Bureau  
Legislative Council Members  
Ms. Connie Lau, Chief Executive, Consumer Council  
Hong Kong Medical Association  
The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong  
The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong

References:

- 1) Drug Safety Consortium Letter dated 11 June 2010
- 2) HA Reply Letter dated 23 May 2010