December 2010

Subject: New KLONOPIN® (clonazepam) Medication Guide (Now Enclosed)

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Genentech would like to inform you that KLONOPIN (clonazepam) now has a Medication Guide to inform patients of the increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. This medication guide is consistent with the currently approved U.S. KLONOPIN complete Prescribing Information (Revised: August 2010).

Per FDA regulations, a copy of the KLONOPIN Medication Guide must be distributed by pharmacists to every patient that receives a KLONOPIN prescription. Enclosed for pharmacy use is a tear pad of KLONOPIN Medication Guides that may be utilized with current inventory. To obtain additional Medication Guides, please call 1-800-551-2231 or visit www.gene.com/gene/products/information/klonopin.

Healthcare professionals should report any serious adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of KLONOPIN to Genentech at 1-888-835-2555. Alternatively, this information may be reported to the FDA’s MedWatch reporting system by phone (1-800-FDA-1088), by facsimile (1-800-FDA-0178), online (https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/), or by mail using the MedWatch form FDA 3500 (FDA Medical Products Reporting Program, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787).

Important Information about KLONOPIN (clonazepam and clonazepam orally disintegrating tablets)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE:

Seizure Disorders: KLONOPIN is useful alone or as an adjunct in the treatment of the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (petit mal variant), akinetic and myoclonic seizures. In patients with absence seizures (petit mal) who have failed to respond to succinimides, KLONOPIN may be useful.

In some studies, up to 30% of patients have shown a loss of anticonvulsant activity, often within 3 months of administration. In some cases, dosage adjustment may reestablish efficacy.

Panic Disorder: KLONOPIN is indicated for the treatment of panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia, as defined in DSM-IV. Panic disorder is characterized by the occurrence of unexpected panic attacks and associated concern about having additional attacks, worry about the implications or consequences of the attacks, and/or a significant change in behavior related to the attacks.
The effectiveness of KLONOPIN in long-term use, that is, for more than 9 weeks, has not been systematically studied in controlled clinical trials. The physician who elects to use KLONOPIN for extended periods should periodically reevaluate the long-term usefulness of the drug for the individual patient.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

KLONOPIN should not be used in patients with a history of sensitivity to benzodiazepines, or in patients with clinical or biochemical evidence of significant liver disease. It may be used in patients with open angle glaucoma who are receiving appropriate therapy but is contraindicated in acute narrow angle glaucoma.

**Important Safety Information:**

The most commonly observed adverse events associated with KLONOPIN in clinical trials were somnolence, depression, abnormal coordination, ataxia, drowsiness, and behavior problems. Withdrawal symptoms, including convulsions, psychosis, hallucinations, behavioral disorder, tremor, and abdominal and muscle cramps, have occurred following abrupt discontinuation of clonazepam. Individuals at risk for addiction should be under careful surveillance when receiving KLONOPIN. As with any benzodiazepine, patients should be cautioned around the risks associated with driving or operating machinery, and the simultaneous ingestion of alcohol and other CNS depressant drugs. Antiepileptic drugs (AEDs), including KLONOPIN, increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior in patients taking these drugs for any indication. Patients treated with any AED for any indication should be monitored for the emergence or worsening of depression, suicidal thoughts or behavior, and/or any unusual changes in mood or behavior. Patients should be advised to consult their physician before increasing, decreasing, or discontinuing the dose of KLONOPIN if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy. Patients should be encouraged to enroll in the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry if they become pregnant. This registry is collecting information about the safety of antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy. To enroll, patients can call the toll-free number 1-888-233-2334.

Genentech is committed to ensuring that patients understand the benefits and risks associated with KLONOPIN therapy. Please see the enclosed KLONOPIN complete Prescribing Information and Medication Guide.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the use of KLONOPIN, please contact our Medical Communications Group at 1-800-821-8590 from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Hal Barron, MD
Executive Vice President
Head, Global Development
Chief Medical Officer