

**International Pompe Association** Luitenant Generaal van Heutszlaan 6 3743 JN Baarn The Netherlands

www.worldpompe.org

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Dear Patient,

## IPA Statement Regarding the Management of Myozyme Supply

Since the first market approval of Myozyme, the IPA has liaised directly with Genzyme LSD Therapeutics to insist that an adequate inventory of the product was kept to ensure continuous supply to all patients receiving the treatment; whether through their commercial or compassionate-use programs. Regretfully, in July 2008 Genzyme released a notification that supply would be tight in 2009 until a larger-scale production facility in Belgium is approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMEA).

Ever since that time, the IPA has urged Genzyme to find ways of increasing Myozyme production and, with the prospect of a tight supply, has worked very closely with Genzyme and expert physicians to prepare advisory guidelines for treating physicians. Playing an important role in the Myozyme Stakeholder's Working Group (MSWG), the IPA has helped to formulate guidance for physicians, carefully designed to protect the most vulnerable patients. At this time, full protection can only be achieved by a reduction in demand for Myozyme from those patients who can tolerate a temporary interruption in their treatment.

The resulting guidelines (which can be found on the IPA website) recommend that adult patients should miss one infusion at the end of January 2009 and should miss another infusion each month thereafter until the period of tight supply ends. It is hoped that this action will be sufficient to preserve drug inventory until Myozyme from the new production facility in Belgium is approved in Europe, and that no further infusions will need to be missed. Our hope is that only a small number of missed infusions will be required.

Genzyme is distributing these guidelines to treating physicians in all countries outside the European Union (EU) - within the EU a separate letter is being sent with a similar message from the European Medicines Agency (EMEA); however there may be circumstances where the message and guidelines do not reach all patients. The aim is to encourage global cooperation in order to protect the most vulnerable patients in the Pompe community, especially children and infants.

If, after reading the guidelines, you have further questions, you should contact your physician or medical support team, or alternatively your national patient support group (national patient support groups are listed on the IPA website at <a href="http://worldpompe.org/index.php/affiliates">http://worldpompe.org/index.php/affiliates</a>). The IPA website also contains Frequently Asked Questions that you may find useful.

I can give my personal assurance that Genzyme staff have worked tirelessly during the last six months to try to minimise the impact of tight supply of Myozyme. The other members of the MSWG have given many hours of their time to develop an optimal strategy for coping with this period of constraint. It is now up to the Pompe community of physicians and patients to give their full cooperation to ensure a successful outcome. After this short and difficult period we hope that inventories will return to levels that will assure uninterrupted treatment for the whole Pompe population.

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Thank you for your assistance

Allan Muir, Chairman, International Pompe Association