Centocor Ortho Biotech Inc.

IMPORTANT DRUG WARNING

May 2009

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Centocor Ortho Biotech Inc., the makers of SIMPONI™ (golimumab), a new Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNF-α) blocking human monoclonal antibody, would like to inform you of important safety information regarding the risk of serious fungal infections associated with TNF-α blockers. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reported that histoplasmosis and other invasive fungal infections are not consistently recognized in patients taking the TNF-α blockers: Cimzia® (certolizumab pegol), Enbrel® (etanercept), Humira® (adalimumab), and Remicade® (infliximab).[1] This has resulted in delays in appropriate antifungal treatment, sometimes even resulting in death.

SIMPONI™ is approved by the FDA for the treatment of adult patients (18 years or older) with: moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis in combination with methotrexate, psoriatic arthritis (either alone or in combination with methotrexate), and ankylosing spondylitis.

Decisions to use SIMPONI™ must balance the potential benefits with the potential risks of therapy based upon your patient's individual needs. You should carefully review the enclosed prescribing information for SIMPONI™, which includes the following important information about the risk of serious infections including TB and invasive fungal infections, such as histoplasmosis, as described in the *Boxed Warnings* of the SIMPONI™ prescribing information.

The following information is important for healthcare professionals and patients treated with TNF-α blockers including SIMPONI™:

- TNF-α blockers are immunosuppressants. Patients taking TNF-α blockers are at risk for developing infections including invasive fungal infections such as histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, blastomycosis, candidiasis, aspergillosis, pneumocystosis, and other opportunistic fungal infections.
- For patients who reside or travel in regions where mycoses are endemic (eg, Ohio and Mississippi River valleys and southwestern United States), invasive fungal infection should be suspected if they develop a serious systemic illness.
- Patients should be encouraged to report signs of infection and be closely monitored during and after treatment with SIMPONI™ and other TNF-α blockers for the development of any signs and symptoms of invasive fungal infection including fever, malaise, weight loss, sweats, cough and dyspnea, pulmonary infiltrates on X-ray or serious systemic illness.

- Patients who develop an infection, including any persistent or reoccurring infections should have their SIMPONI™ (golimumab) or other TNF-α blocker discontinued and undergo a complete diagnostic workup. Empiric antifungal therapy should be considered until the pathogen(s) are identified in consultation with an infectious diseases specialist when feasible.
- SIMPONI™ may be restarted after recovery from the infection based on a reevaluation of risks and benefits. The decision to restart SIMPONI™ therapy and the duration of the antifungal therapy should be made in consultation with an infectious diseases specialist when feasible.

For further information please refer to the following FDA link:

http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/TNF_blockersHCP.htm

Please Note: This letter does not include a comprehensive description of the serious and significant risks associated with the use of SIMPONI™. Please read the accompanying full prescribing information and Medication Guide for a complete description of the serious and significant risks associated with the use of SIMPONI™, including the Boxed Warning regarding the risk of serious infections, Contraindications, Warnings, Precautions and Adverse Events.

It is important that all adverse events potentially associated with SIMPONI™ be reported so that the adverse event profile reported in the prescribing information can be updated appropriately as post-approval experience is gathered. You can assist us with monitoring the safety of SIMPONI™ by reporting adverse events to Centocor Ortho Biotech Inc. at 1-800-457-6399.

Adverse event information may also be reported to the FDA MedWatch Reporting System by the following methods:

- Online at www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm
- Phone at 1-800-FDA-1088
- Fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, using the MedWatch Form 3500 (available at www.fda.gov/medwatch/getforms.htm)
- Mail, using the postage-paid MedWatch Form 3500 (see above), to MedWatch, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787

Please see the enclosed:

- SIMPONI™ package insert, and
- Medication Guide

Sincerely,

Peter Callegari, MD
Vice President, Medical Affairs

Enclosures

References:

[1] Information for Healthcare Professionals Cimzia® (certolizumab pegol), Enbrel® (etanercept), Humira® (adalimumab), and Remicade® (infliximab). http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/TNF_blockersHCP.htm