



August 13, 2012

Re: **IMPORTANT PRODUCT SUPPLY INFORMATION**

**Antivenin (Latrodectus mactans)  
(Black Widow Spider Antivenin) Equine Origin**

**EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION DATING TO February 12, 2013  
Lot Number 0667018, packaged in Lot 0585Z**

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. (Merck), a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., would like to provide you with important information regarding Antivenin (Latrodectus mactans) (Black Widow Spider Antivenin) Equine Origin.

Merck, working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is extending the expiration date of one lot of Antivenin, Lot Number 0667018 included in packaged lot 0585Z, until **February 12, 2013**. This is an additional 6 months beyond the labeled expiration date of August 12, 2012. Merck has stability data that indicate product from lot 0667018 continues to be within applicable release specifications. **As a result, FDA has approved extension of the expiration date of for Antivenin Lot 0667018 until February 12, 2013.**

Please do not discard any product you have in your inventory of Lot Number 0667018. Please continue to maintain this product in your inventory and keep it available for use until February 12, 2013.

Please note that the expiration for the sterile diluent supplied with this lot has not been extended. **Do not use the expired diluent packaged with this lot of Antivenin.** Instead, reconstitute the Antivenin with 2.5 mL of Sterile Water for Injection. Then proceed to follow the package insert instructions under the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of the Prescribing Information.

Merck is carefully managing inventories of Antivenin (Latrodectus mactans) and currently ships this product only for patients with symptomatic bites, within 24 hours of notification.

Antivenin (Latrodectus mactans) is used to treat patients with symptoms due to bites by the black widow spider (Latrodectus mactans).

Prior to treatment with any product prepared from horse serum, a careful review of the patient's history should be taken emphasizing prior exposure to horse serum or any allergies. Serious sickness and even death could result from the use of horse serum in

a sensitive patient. You should follow the package insert instructions under the WARNING section for sensitivity testing using the horse serum that is provided in packaged Lot 0585Z.

Before prescribing Antivenin (*Latrodectus mactans*), please read the enclosed Prescribing Information. The product Prescribing Information also can be accessed at [http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi\\_circulars/a/antivenin/antivenin\\_pi.pdf](http://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/a/antivenin/antivenin_pi.pdf)

If you have any questions, please call the Merck National Service Center at 800-672-6372.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elaine S. Perry, MD, MS  
Office of the Chief Medical Officer