European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Certification of Substances Division

Strasbourg, 14 May 2008

Notice to holders of CEPs for heparin or enoxaparin

The European Pharmacopoeia monographs for heparin calcium and sodium contain a Production Section, which requires that the methods of manufacturing are designed to minimise or eliminate substances lowering blood pressure. As the monograph for low molecular weight heparin and enoxaparin require the use of heparins as starting materials, which fully comply with the respective monographs, this requirement is equally applicable to fractionated heparins. However, this requirement is outside the scope of the Certification procedure, and has to be assessed in the context of the medicinal product containing the substance; this is specifically mentioned on the CEPs granted for these substances.

Following the adverse events observed recently in the United States of America and in Europe, and following the measures taken by European Authorities, the EDQM would like to bring to the attention of the holders of CEPs for heparin or enoxaparin their obligation to comply with the requirements of the Production Section, including additional testing for the contaminant identified recently.

The validity of the current CEPs is not changed. However, the release of any batch of heparin or enoxaparin should include additional testing, using appropriate validated method(s) and the data have to be provided by the CEP holders to customers for submission to the Licensing Authorities. For more information about the test methods:
http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/heparin/default.htm

It should be noted that there are a limited number of old CEPs, which do not contain the statement concerning the Production Section of the monograph. They will be revised accordingly by EDQM to avoid any misinterpretation in their use.

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