



# Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

## Medical Safety Information

**No.82, September 2013**

# Accidental ingestion of PTP sheets (1st Follow-up Report)

Information about the accidental ingestion of PTP sheets was provided in Medical Safety Information No.57 (August 2011), which stated that 14 cases had been reported over a period of four and a half years. As 26 similar cases have been reported over the subsequent two years, information about this issue is provided here again (information collection period: from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013; the information is partly included in “Individual Theme Review” (p.100) in the 23rd Quarterly Report).

**Cases of patients taking oral medication without first removing it from the PTP sheet have been reported. Most of these are cases in which the medical personnel separated the PTP sheets into individual tablet sheet before handing them to the patient.**

Person who Separated the Sheet	Circumstances		Number of Cases	
Medical personnel	separated PTP sheet into individual tablet sheets and	handed over 1 dose	12	21
		placed 1 dose in a medicine cup, etc. and handed it over	7	
		handed over all of the drugs to be self-administered	2	
Patient	received PTP sheet of self-administered drugs and	separated them into individual tablet sheets	5	

- ◆ A PTP (Press Through Package) sheet is a form of drug packaging in which the drug is laminated between plastic and/or aluminum.
- ◆ Please refer to Medical Safety Information No.57 [Accidental ingestion of PTP sheets] for illustrations of the cases cited therein.

## Accidental ingestion of PTP sheets (1st Follow-up Report)

### Case 1

When nurses administered drugs on the ward, the practice was to remove the drugs from their PTP sheets before handing them over to the patients. After dinner, the nurse separated one tablet from the PTP sheet of Warfarin and handed over the single dose as it was. 30 minutes later, the patient called the nurse and said that s/he might have ingested the PTP sheet along with the drug. An endoscopy identified the sheet inside the stomach and it was extracted.

### Case 2

The patient was self-administering his/her oral medication and separated the PTP sheets into individual tablets. When taking his/her drugs after breakfast, the patient placed the three types of drug, still inside their PTP sheets, into the bag containing his/her powdered medication and took all of them. S/he spat out two of the drugs unaided, but was unable to cough up the other, which felt as though it had become stuck in his/her throat. An endoscopy was carried out, but visibility within the stomach was poor, due to food residue, and it was not possible to remove it, so the physician decided to wait for it to be excreted, paying careful attention to any gastrointestinal symptoms. The patient excreted the PTP sheet the following day, while defecating.

The Japanese Nursing Association has published an advisory entitled Measures to Prevent Accidental Ingestion of PTP Sheets (February 20, 2013).

<http://www.nurse.or.jp/nursing/practice/anzen/anzenjoho.html>

#### Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred.

- Drugs will be removed from their PTP sheets when handing over single doses to patients.
- Patients will be told that PTP sheets must not be separated into individual tablet sheets and that they must remove the tablet from the sheet before taking it.

#### Complementary comment by the Comprehensive Evaluation Panel

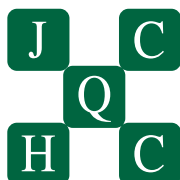
- Explain to the patient the risk of accidental ingestion of the each piece of PTP sheet with a tablet which was cut out from the whole sheet.

\* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

\* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

\* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



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