



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Therapeutic Goods Administration

# Recall Action Notification

## Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene Liners

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## Important information on the System for Australian Recall Actions

The TGA publishes information about therapeutic goods supplied in the Australian market that have been subject to a recall action in a publicly searchable database.

Recall action means action taken by the responsible entity (being the person who is responsible for taking the recall action) to resolve a problem with therapeutic goods supplied in the Australian market that have, or may potentially have, deficiencies relating to safety, quality, efficacy (performance) or presentation.

- Recall actions include: the permanent removal of therapeutic goods from supply in the market, the taking of corrective action in relation to therapeutic goods (such as repair, modification, adjustment or relabelling) and, in the case of medical devices that have been implanted into patients, the issuing of a hazard alert containing information for health practitioners on how to manage patients.
- More information about Australian recall actions is available at <http://tga.gov.au/safety/recalls-about.htm>
- If you are taking a medicine, using a medical device or have had a medical device implanted into you, that is the subject to a recall action, and you have any concerns you should seek advice from a health professional. <http://www.healthdirect.org.au/>

### About the release of this information

While reasonable care is taken to ensure that the information is an accurate record of recall actions that responsible entities have reported to the TGA or of which the TGA has become aware, the TGA does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information or its usefulness in achieving any purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, including but not limited to section 61A of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, the TGA will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred in or arising by reason of any person relying on this information.

The information contained in the SARA database is released under s 61(5C) of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. Copyright restrictions apply to the System of Australian Recall actions (SARA) <http://tga.gov.au/about/website-copyright.htm>.

## Recall detail

<b>Type of Product<sup>i</sup></b>	Medical Device
<b>TGA Recall Reference<sup>ii</sup></b>	RC-2021-RN-01874-1
<b>Product Name/Description<sup>iii</sup></b>	<p>Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene Liners</p> <p>Multiple product descriptions</p> <p>Active ARTGs: 277743, 285503, 285502, 285911, 285907, 285442 and 308700</p> <p>Cancelled ARTGs: 277745, 278343, 286119 and 285677</p>
<b>Recall Action Level<sup>iv</sup></b>	Hospital
<b>Recall Action Classification<sup>v</sup></b>	Class II
<b>Recall Action Commencement Date<sup>vi</sup></b>	3/11/2021
<b>Responsible Entity<sup>vii</sup></b>	Exactech Australia Pty Ltd
<b>Reason / Issue<sup>viii</sup></b>	<p>After extensive testing, Exactech have recently confirmed that most of Exactech inserts manufactured since 2008 were packaged in out-of-specification vacuum bags that are oxygen resistant but do not contain a secondary barrier layer that further augments oxygen resistance. The use of these non-conforming bags may enable increased oxygen diffusion to the UHMWPE (ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene) insert, resulting in increased oxidation of the material relative to inserts packaged with the specified additional oxygen barrier layer. For inserts with greater than five years of shelf life, increased oxidation of the inserts can lead to premature polyethylene wear resulting in a revision surgery.</p> <p>Only UHMWPE products labelled with an 8-year shelf life are affected. Shoulder and hip polyethylene inserts are not the subject to this action, as these products have been labelled with a 5-year shelf life.</p>
<b>Recall Action<sup>ix</sup></b>	Hazard Alert

<b>Recall Action Instructions<sup>x</sup></b>	<p>For surgeons, Exactech is recommending the following actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For patients who have been implanted with polyethylene devices in non-conforming bags that were greater than five years old at the time of implantation and who have not been seen in over 12 months, we recommend a return to the office/clinic for a routine clinical exam and a routine set of knee x-rays to identify premature polyethylene wear (standing AP, lateral, and sunrise views).</li> <li>2. For patients who exhibit abnormal wear the surgeon could consider revision to a new Exactech knee insert.</li> </ol> <p>For customers including agency, distributors and/or healthcare facilities, Exactech is suggesting the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inspect inventory and quarantine any affected stock with an expiry date prior to 31 August 2025 and return to Exactech</li> <li>2. All remaining knee and ankle UHMWPE devices labelled with an 8-year shelf life not packaged in EVOH/Nylon bags will be relabelled with a 5-year shelf life from the date of manufacture</li> </ol>
<b>Contact Information<sup>xi</sup></b>	02 8882 9688 - Annie Zeng

## Footnotes

<sup>i</sup> Type of Product: Medicine, Medical Device, or Biological

<sup>ii</sup> TGA Recall Reference: Unique number given by the TGA

<sup>iii</sup> Product Name/Description: Brand name (including active ingredient for medicines) and may include generic reference for the kind of medical devices. Includes all necessary information such as affected: catalogue / model and / or batch / serial numbers.

<sup>iv</sup> Recall Action Level: The level to which the recall action is to be undertaken. This is based on the significance of the risk and the channels through which the goods have been distributed. The recall action levels are / Wholesale / Hospital / Retail / Consumer.

- **Wholesale** - includes wholesalers and state purchasing authorities.
- **Hospital** - includes nursing homes and institutions, hospital pharmacists, ambulance services, blood and tissue banks and laboratories as well as wholesale as appropriate.
- **Retail** - includes retail pharmacists, medical, dental and other health care professionals as well as wholesale and hospital as appropriate.
- **Consumer** - includes patients and consumers, as well as wholesale, hospital and retail levels as appropriate.

<sup>v</sup> Recall Action Classification<sup>\*\*</sup>: Recall actions of therapeutic goods are classified based on the potential risk the deficiency poses to patients / consumers. They are classified as Class I, Class II or Class III.

- **Class I** - A situation in which there is a reasonable probability that the use of, or exposure to, the deficient therapeutic good(s) will cause serious adverse health consequences or death.
- **Class II** - A situation in which use of, or exposure to, the deficient therapeutic good(s) may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences, or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.
- **Class III** - A situation in which use of, or exposure to, the deficient therapeutic good(s) is not likely to cause adverse health consequences.

<sup>vi</sup> Recall Action Commencement Date: The date the recall strategy and communication was agreed by the TGA.

<sup>vii</sup> Responsible Entity: Sponsor / Supplier / Importer responsible for the recall actions.

<sup>viii</sup> Reason / Issue: Reason for the recall action.

<sup>ix</sup> Recall Action<sup>\*\*</sup>: Recall action is an action taken to resolve a problem with a therapeutic good already supplied in the market for which there are issues or deficiencies in relation to safety, quality, efficacy (performance) or presentation.

There are four distinct recall actions – recall, product defect correction, hazard alert and product defect alert.

- **Recall** - The permanent removal of an affected therapeutic good from supply or use in the market.
- **Product defect correction** - Repair, modification, adjustment or re-labelling of a therapeutic good. The corrective action may take place at the user's premises or any other agreed location.
- **Hazard alert** - Information issued to healthcare professionals about issues or deficiencies relating to an implanted medical device or biological product and advice about the ongoing management of patients.
- **Product defect alert** - Information issued to raise awareness about issues or deficiencies for a therapeutic good where a recall action will result in interruption of patient treatment or a medicine shortage, including advice to reduce potential risks of using affected goods.

<sup>x</sup> Recall Action Instructions: What customers with affected goods should do.

<sup>xi</sup> Contact Information: Who the customer should contact for additional information and clarification regarding the recall action.

<sup>\*\*</sup> These definitions are applicable to the 2017 URPTG (Implemented from Jan 15 2018). Recall Action types and Recall Action Classifications prior to 15 Jan 2018 can be found at:

<https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/recalls-urptg-170412.pdf>