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Discrepancies in Medical Information Responses from Pharmaceutical Companies Regarding Animal-Derived Ingredients

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Introduction

Pharmaceutical companies often provide medical information regarding the presence of animal-derived ingredients in medications. However, inconsistencies and misleading responses can result in challenges for individuals with food allergies, Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS), and dietary restrictions. This document highlights specific cases where discrepancies in information have been identified, demonstrating the need for greater transparency in pharmaceutical ingredient disclosure.

Why this Matters

Patients with dietary, religious, or medical restrictions rely on accurate ingredient information for safe medication use.

33M

people in the U.S. have food allergies

500K

individuals are affected by Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS)

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Key Findings

1

Contradictory Information from the Same Manufacturer

Example: A pharmaceutical company provided different ingredient disclosures in separate responses regarding the same product.

Case NUCALA: The manufacturer's response contained conflicting statements about the presence of animal-derived ingredients.

2

Misinformation in Med Info Responses vs. FDA DailyMed Database

Several manufacturers' responses contradicted publicly available ingredient data.

Example: Gabapentin - Manufacturer response stated no animal-derived ingredients, while the FDA DailyMed database indicated the presence of lactose.

3

Omissions of Key Ingredients

Some companies failed to disclose known animal-derived ingredients.

Example: Cephalexin - The response omitted gelatin despite its presence in the capsule formulation.

4

Risk to Alpha-gal Patients from Biologic Manufacturing Processes

Example: KEYTRUDA and STELARA - Produced in recombinant Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, which could pose a risk for AGS patients, yet this was not explicitly disclosed by the manufacturer.

5

Delayed or Updated Information

Some manufacturers updated public ingredient listings only after inquiries were made.

Example: XELJANZ XR - The company revised its ingredient list following VeganMed's request for clarification.

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Examples of Discrepencies

Medication	Reported Issue
Cephalexin	Gelatin omission in response letter
Gabapentin	Conflict between Med Info and FDA database
Avodart	Manufacturer denial of known lactose presence
Methylphenidate	No disclosure of potential shellac content
Promethazine	Missing details about animal-derived excipients
Prevident Toothpaste	Inconsistent responses on carrageenan presence
Keytruda/Stelara	No disclosure of CHO cell-derived formulation risk
Xeljanz XR	Updated ingredient listing only after inquiry
Tarpeyo	Inconsistent formulation details provided
Atorvastatin	Lack of transparency on inactive ingredients
Tramadol	Animal-derived components not explicitly disclosed
Azithromycin	Manufacturer uncertainty regarding shellac source
Morphine Sulfate	No confirmation of lactose presence

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Call to Action

The inconsistencies highlighted in this document underscore the need for standardized, transparent ingredient disclosure in pharmaceutical products. Patients and healthcare professionals rely on accurate information to make informed decisions regarding medication safety. VeganMed Foundation calls on pharmaceutical companies to:

1	**Implement clear, standardized response letters regarding animal-derived ingredients.**
2	**Ensure consistency between internal Med Info responses and publicly available FDA DailyMed data.**
3	**Proactively disclose potential allergen risks, including those relevant to Alpha-gal Syndrome patients.**

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Additional Research

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About VeganMed Foundation

The VeganMed Foundation (VMF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded by VeganMed, Inc., a leader in medication safety and transparency. VMF promotes health by advocating for clear labeling of medication ingredients, catering specifically to individuals with dietary, ethical, and religious considerations.

Contact Information
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