

**ANNEX I**  
**SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

## 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Ziextenzo 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe

## 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim\* in 0.6 mL solution for injection. The concentration is 10 mg/mL based on protein only\*\*.

\*Produced in *Escherichia coli* cells by recombinant DNA technology followed by conjugation with polyethylene glycol (PEG).

\*\* The concentration is 20 mg/mL if the PEG moiety is included.

The potency of this product should not be compared to the potency of another pegylated or non-pegylated protein of the same therapeutic class. For more information, see section 5.1

### Excipients with known effect

Each pre-filled syringe contains 30 mg sorbitol (E420).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection (injection)

Clear, colourless to slightly yellowish solution for injection.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

Reduction in the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of febrile neutropenia in adult patients treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy for malignancy (with the exception of chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes).

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

Ziextenzo therapy should be initiated and supervised by physicians experienced in oncology and/or haematology.

#### Posology

One 6 mg dose (a single pre-filled syringe) of Ziextenzo is recommended for each chemotherapy cycle, given at least 24 hours after cytotoxic chemotherapy.

#### Special populations

##### *Paediatric population*

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim in children has not yet been established. Currently available data are described in sections 4.8, 5.1 and 5.2 but no recommendation on a posology can be made.

### *Renal impairment*

No dose change is recommended in patients with renal impairment, including those with end stage renal disease.

### Method of administration

Ziextenzo is for subcutaneous use.

The injections should be given into the thigh, abdomen or upper arm. For instructions on handling of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

#### Traceability

In order to improve the traceability of biological medicinal products, the name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded.

#### General warnings and precautions

Limited clinical data suggest a comparable effect on time to recovery of severe neutropenia for pegfilgrastim to filgrastim in patients with *de novo* acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) (see section 5.1). However, the long-term effects of pegfilgrastim have not been established in AML; therefore, it should be used with caution in this patient population.

Granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) can promote growth of myeloid cells *in vitro* and similar effects may be seen on some non-myeloid cells *in vitro*.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim have not been investigated in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome, chronic myelogenous leukaemia, and in patients with secondary AML; therefore, it should not be used in such patients. Particular care should be taken to distinguish the diagnosis of blast transformation of chronic myeloid leukaemia from AML.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim administration in *de novo* AML patients aged < 55 years with cytogenetics t(15;17) have not been established.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim have not been investigated in patients receiving high dose chemotherapy. This medicinal product should not be used to increase the dose of cytotoxic chemotherapy beyond established dose regimens.

#### Pulmonary adverse events

Pulmonary adverse reactions, in particular interstitial pneumonia, have been reported after G-CSF administration. Patients with a recent history of pulmonary infiltrates or pneumonia may be at higher risk (see section 4.8).

The onset of pulmonary signs such as cough, fever, and dyspnoea in association with radiological signs of pulmonary infiltrates, and deterioration in pulmonary function along with increased neutrophil count may be preliminary signs of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). In such circumstances pegfilgrastim should be discontinued at the discretion of the physician and the appropriate treatment given (see section 4.8).

### Glomerulonephritis

Glomerulonephritis has been reported in patients receiving filgrastim and pegfilgrastim. Generally, events of glomerulonephritis resolved after dose reduction or withdrawal of filgrastim and pegfilgrastim. Urinalysis monitoring is recommended.

### Capillary leak syndrome

Capillary leak syndrome has been reported after granulocyte-colony stimulating factor administration and is characterised by hypotension, hypoalbuminaemia, oedema and haemoconcentration. Patients who develop symptoms of capillary leak syndrome should be closely monitored and receive standard symptomatic treatment, which may include a need for intensive care (see section 4.8).

### Splenomegaly and splenic rupture

Generally asymptomatic cases of splenomegaly and cases of splenic rupture, including some fatal cases, have been reported following administration of pegfilgrastim (see section 4.8). Therefore, spleen size should be carefully monitored (e.g. clinical examination, ultrasound). A diagnosis of splenic rupture should be considered in patients reporting left upper abdominal pain or shoulder tip pain.

### Thrombocytopenia and anaemia

Treatment with pegfilgrastim alone does not preclude thrombocytopenia and anaemia because full dose myelosuppressive chemotherapy is maintained on the prescribed schedule. Regular monitoring of platelet count and haematocrit is recommended. Special care should be taken when administering single or combination chemotherapeutic agents which are known to cause severe thrombocytopenia.

### Myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloid leukaemia in breast and lung cancer patients

In the post-marketing observational study setting, pegfilgrastim in conjunction with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy has been associated with development of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) in breast and lung cancer patients (see section 4.8). Monitor breast and lung cancer patients for signs and symptoms of MDS/AML.

### Sickle cell anaemia

Sickle cell crises have been associated with the use of pegfilgrastim in patients with sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease (see section 4.8). Therefore, physicians should use caution when prescribing pegfilgrastim in patients with sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease, should monitor appropriate clinical parameters and laboratory status and be attentive to the possible association of this medicine with splenic enlargement and vaso-occlusive crisis.

### Leukocytosis

White blood cell (WBC) counts of  $100 \times 10^9/L$  or greater have been observed in less than 1% of patients receiving pegfilgrastim. No adverse events directly attributable to this degree of leukocytosis have been reported. Such elevation in white blood cells is transient, typically seen 24 to 48 hours after administration and is consistent with the pharmacodynamic effects of this medicine. Consistent with the clinical effects and the potential for leukocytosis, a WBC count should be performed at regular intervals during therapy. If leukocyte counts exceed  $50 \times 10^9/L$  after the expected nadir, this medicine should be discontinued immediately.

### Hypersensitivity

Hypersensitivity, including anaphylactic reactions, occurring on initial or subsequent treatment has been reported in patients treated with pegfilgrastim. Permanently discontinue pegfilgrastim in patients with

clinically significant hypersensitivity. Do not administer pegfilgrastim to patients with a history of hypersensitivity to pegfilgrastim or filgrastim. If a serious allergic reaction occurs, appropriate therapy should be administered, with close patient follow-up over several days.

#### Stevens-Johnson syndrome

Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), which can be life-threatening or fatal, has been reported rarely in association with pegfilgrastim treatment. If the patient has developed SJS with the use of pegfilgrastim, treatment with pegfilgrastim must not be restarted in this patient at any time.

#### Immunogenicity

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity. Rates of generation of antibodies against pegfilgrastim are generally low. Binding antibodies do occur as expected with all biologics; however, they have not been associated with neutralising activity at present.

#### Aortitis

Aortitis has been reported after G-CSF administration in healthy subjects and in cancer patients. The symptoms experienced included fever, abdominal pain, malaise, back pain and inflammatory markers (e.g. C-reactive protein and white blood cell count) were raised. In most cases aortitis was diagnosed by CT scan and generally resolved after withdrawal of G-CSF. See also section 4.8.

#### Other warnings

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim for the mobilisation of blood progenitor cells in patients or healthy donors have not been adequately evaluated.

Increased haematopoietic activity of the bone marrow in response to growth factor therapy has been associated with transient positive bone-imaging findings. This should be considered when interpreting bone-imaging results.

#### Excipients

This medicinal product contains 30 mg sorbitol in each pre-filled syringe which is equivalent to 50 mg/mL. The additive effect of concomitantly administered products containing sorbitol (or fructose) and dietary intake of sorbitol (or fructose) should be taken into account.

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 6 mg dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

Due to the potential sensitivity of rapidly dividing myeloid cells to cytotoxic chemotherapy, pegfilgrastim should be administered at least 24 hours after administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy. In clinical trials, pegfilgrastim has been safely administered 14 days before chemotherapy. Concomitant use of pegfilgrastim with any chemotherapy agent has not been evaluated in patients. In animal models concomitant administration of pegfilgrastim and 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) or other antimetabolites has been shown to potentiate myelosuppression.

Possible interactions with other haematopoietic growth factors and cytokines have not been specifically investigated in clinical trials.

The potential for interaction with lithium, which also promotes the release of neutrophils, has not been specifically investigated. There is no evidence that such an interaction would be harmful.

The safety and efficacy of pegfilgrastim have not been evaluated in patients receiving chemotherapy associated with delayed myelosuppression e.g. nitrosoureas.

Specific interaction or metabolism studies have not been performed, however, clinical trials have not indicated an interaction of pegfilgrastim with any other medicinal products.

#### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

##### Pregnancy

There are no or limited amount of data from the use of pegfilgrastim in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). Pegfilgrastim is not recommended during pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential not using contraception.

##### Breast-feeding

There is insufficient information on the excretion of pegfilgrastim/metabolites in human milk, a risk to the newborns/infants cannot be excluded. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from pegfilgrastim therapy taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

##### Fertility

Pegfilgrastim did not affect reproductive performance or fertility in male or female rats at cumulative weekly doses approximately 6 to 9 times higher than the recommended human dose (based on body surface area) (see section 5.3).

#### **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Pegfilgrastim has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

#### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

##### Summary of the safety profile

The most frequently reported adverse reactions were bone pain (very common [ $\geq 1/10$ ]) and musculoskeletal pain (common [ $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ]). Bone pain was generally of mild to moderate severity, transient and could be controlled in most patients with standard analgesics.

Hypersensitivity-type reactions, including skin rash, urticaria, angioedema, dyspnoea, erythaema, flushing, and hypotension occurred on initial or subsequent treatment with pegfilgrastim (uncommon [ $\geq 1/1\ 000$  to  $< 1/100$ ]). Serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis can occur in patients receiving pegfilgrastim (uncommon) (see section 4.4).

Capillary Leak Syndrome, which can be life-threatening if treatment is delayed, has been reported as uncommon ( $\geq 1/1\ 000$  to  $< 1/100$ ) in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy following administration of granulocyte colony-stimulating factors; see section 4.4 and section "Description of selected adverse reactions" below.

Splenomegaly, generally asymptomatic, is uncommon.

Splenic rupture including some fatal cases is uncommonly reported following administration of pegfilgrastim (see section 4.4).

Uncommon pulmonary adverse reactions including interstitial pneumonia, pulmonary oedema, pulmonary infiltrates and pulmonary fibrosis have been reported. Uncommonly, cases have resulted in respiratory failure or ARDS, which may be fatal (see section 4.4).

Isolated cases of sickle cell crises have been reported in patients with sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease (uncommon in sickle cell patients) (see section 4.4).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The data in the table below describe adverse reactions reported from clinical trials and spontaneous reporting. Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

**Table 1. Adverse reactions**

MedDRA system organ class	Adverse reactions			
	Very common (≥ 1/10)	Common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10)	Uncommon (≥ 1/1 000 to < 1/100)	Rare (≥ 1/10 000 to < 1/1 000)
<b>Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (incl cysts and polyps)</b>			Myelodysplastic syndrome <sup>1</sup> Acute myeloid leukaemia <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b>		Thrombocytopenia <sup>1</sup> Leukocytosis <sup>1</sup>	Sickle cell anaemia with crisis <sup>2</sup> Splenomegaly <sup>2</sup> ; Splenic rupture <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Immune system disorders</b>			Hypersensitivity reactions; Anaphylaxis	
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>			Elevations in uric acid	
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	Headache <sup>1</sup>			
<b>Vascular disorders</b>			Capillary leak syndrome <sup>1</sup>	Aortitis
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>			Acute respiratory distress syndrome <sup>2</sup> Pulmonary adverse reactions (interstitial pneumonia, pulmonary oedema, pulmonary infiltrates and pulmonary fibrosis) Haemoptysis	Pulmonary haemorrhage
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	Nausea <sup>1</sup>			
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>			Sweet's syndrome (acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis) <sup>1,2</sup> Cutaneous vasculitis <sup>1,2</sup>	Stevens-Johnson syndrome

MedDRA system organ class	Adverse reactions			
	Very common (≥ 1/10)	Common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10)	Uncommon (≥ 1/1 000 to < 1/100)	Rare (≥ 1/10 000 to < 1/1 000)
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>	Bone pain	Musculoskeletal pain (myalgia, arthralgia, pain in extremity, back pain, musculoskeletal pain, neck pain)		
<b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>			Glomerulonephritis <sup>2</sup>	
<b>General disorders and administrative site conditions</b>		Injection site pain <sup>1</sup> Non-cardiac chest pain	Injection site reactions <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Investigations</b>			Elevations in lactate dehydrogenase and alkaline phosphatase <sup>1</sup> Transient elevations in LFT's for ALT or AST <sup>1</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> See section “Description of selected adverse reactions” below.

<sup>2</sup> This adverse reaction was identified through post-marketing surveillance but not observed in randomised, controlled clinical trials in adults. The frequency category was estimated from a statistical calculation based upon 1 576 patients receiving pegfilgrastim in nine randomised clinical trials.

#### Description of selected adverse reactions

Uncommon cases of Sweet’s syndrome have been reported, although in some cases underlying haematological malignancies may play a role.

Uncommon events of cutaneous vasculitis have been reported in patients treated with pegfilgrastim. The mechanism of vasculitis in patients receiving pegfilgrastim is unknown.

Injection site reactions, including injection site erythaema (uncommon) as well as injection site pain (common) have occurred on initial or subsequent treatment with pegfilgrastim.

Common cases of leukocytosis (White Blood Count [WBC] > 100 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L) have been reported (see section 4.4).

Reversible, mild to moderate elevations in uric acid and alkaline phosphatase, with no associated clinical effects, were uncommon; reversible, mild to moderate elevations in lactate dehydrogenase, with no associated clinical effects, were uncommon in patients receiving pegfilgrastim following cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Nausea and headaches were very commonly observed in patients receiving chemotherapy.

Uncommon elevations in liver function tests (LFTs) for alanine aminotransferase (ALT) or aspartate aminotransferase (AST), have been observed in patients after receiving pegfilgrastim following cytotoxic chemotherapy. These elevations are transient and return to baseline.

An increased risk of MDS/AML following treatment with Ziextenzo in conjunction with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy has been observed in an epidemiological study in breast and lung cancer patients (see section 4.4).

Common cases of thrombocytopenia have been reported.

Cases of capillary leak syndrome have been reported in the post-marketing setting with granulocyte colony-stimulating factor use. These have generally occurred in patients with advanced malignant diseases, sepsis, taking multiple chemotherapy medicinal products or undergoing apheresis (see section 4.4).

#### Paediatric population

The experience in children is limited. A higher frequency of serious adverse reactions in younger children aged 0-5 years (92%) has been observed compared to older children aged 6-11 and 12-21 years respectively (80% and 67%) and adults. The most common adverse reaction reported was bone pain (see sections 5.1 and 5.2).

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system listed in [Appendix V](#).

### **4.9 Overdose**

Single doses of 300 mcg/kg have been administered subcutaneously to a limited number of healthy volunteers and patients with non-small cell lung cancer without serious adverse reactions. The adverse events were similar to those in subjects receiving lower doses of pegfilgrastim.

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: immunostimulants, colony stimulating factor; ATC Code: L03AA13

Ziextenzo is a biosimilar medicinal product. Detailed information is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

Human granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) is a glycoprotein, which regulates the production and release of neutrophils from the bone marrow. Pegfilgrastim is a covalent conjugate of recombinant human G-CSF (r-metHuG-CSF) with a single 20 kd polyethylene glycol (PEG) molecule. Pegfilgrastim is a sustained duration form of filgrastim due to decreased renal clearance.

Pegfilgrastim and filgrastim have been shown to have identical modes of action, causing a marked increase in peripheral blood neutrophil counts within 24 hours, with minor increases in monocytes and/or lymphocytes. Similarly to filgrastim, neutrophils produced in response to pegfilgrastim show normal or enhanced function as demonstrated by tests of chemotactic and phagocytic function. As with other haematopoietic growth factors, G-CSF has shown *in vitro* stimulating properties on human endothelial cells. G-CSF can promote growth of myeloid cells, including malignant cells, *in vitro* and similar effects may be seen on some non-myeloid cells *in vitro*.

In two randomised, double-blind, pivotal studies in patients with high-risk stage II-IV breast cancer undergoing myelosuppressive chemotherapy consisting of doxorubicin and docetaxel, use of pegfilgrastim, as a single once per cycle dose, reduced the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of

febrile neutropenia similarly to that observed with daily administrations of filgrastim (a median of 11 daily administrations). In the absence of growth factor support, this regimen has been reported to result in a mean duration of grade 4 neutropenia of 5 to 7 days, and a 30-40% incidence of febrile neutropenia. In one study (n = 157), which used a 6 mg fixed dose of pegfilgrastim the mean duration of grade 4 neutropenia for the pegfilgrastim group was 1.8 days compared with 1.6 days in the filgrastim group (difference 0.23 days, 95% CI -0.15, 0.63). Over the entire study, the rate of febrile neutropenia was 13% of pegfilgrastim-treated patients compared with 20% of filgrastim-treated patients (difference 7%, 95% CI of -19%, 5%). In a second study (n = 310), which used a weight-adjusted dose (100 mcg/kg), the mean duration of grade 4 neutropenia for the pegfilgrastim group was 1.7 days, compared with 1.8 days in the filgrastim group (difference 0.03 days, 95% CI -0.36, 0.30). The overall rate of febrile neutropenia was 9% of patients treated with pegfilgrastim and 18% of patients treated with filgrastim (difference 9%, 95% CI of -16.8%, -1.1%).

In a placebo-controlled, double blind study in patients with breast cancer the effect of pegfilgrastim on the incidence of febrile neutropenia was evaluated following administration of a chemotherapy regimen associated with a febrile neutropenia rate of 10-20% (docetaxel 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 3 weeks for 4 cycles). Nine hundred and twenty eight patients were randomised to receive either a single dose of pegfilgrastim or placebo approximately 24 hours (day 2) after chemotherapy in each cycle. The incidence of febrile neutropenia was lower for patients randomised to receive pegfilgrastim compared with placebo (1% versus 17%, p < 0.001). The incidence of hospitalisations and IV anti-infective use associated with a clinical diagnosis of febrile neutropenia was lower in the pegfilgrastim group compared with placebo (1% versus 14%, p < 0.001; and 2% versus 10%, p < 0.001).

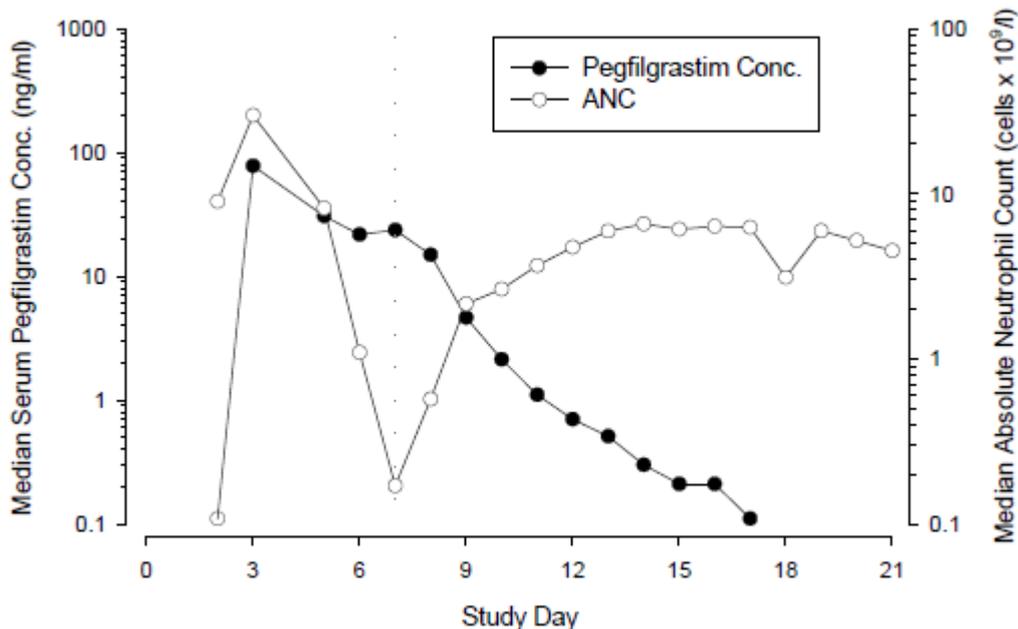
A small (n = 83), phase II, randomised, double-blind study in patients receiving chemotherapy for *de novo* acute myeloid leukaemia compared pegfilgrastim (single dose of 6 mg) with filgrastim, administered during induction chemotherapy. Median time to recovery from severe neutropenia was estimated as 22 days in both treatment groups. Long term outcome was not studied (see section 4.4).

In a phase II (n = 37) multicentre, randomised, open-label study of paediatric sarcoma patients receiving 100 mcg/kg pegfilgrastim following cycle 1 of vincristine, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (VAdriaC/IE) chemotherapy, a longer duration of severe neutropenia (neutrophils < 0.5 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L) was observed in younger children aged 0-5 years (8.9 days) compared to older children aged 6-11 years and 12-21 years (6 days and 3.7 days, respectively) and adults. Additionally a higher incidence of febrile neutropenia was observed in younger children aged 0-5 years (75%) compared to older children aged 6-11 years and 12-21 years (70% and 33%, respectively) and adults (see sections 4.8 and 5.2).

## 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

After a single subcutaneous dose of pegfilgrastim, the peak serum concentration of pegfilgrastim occurs at 16 to 120 hours after dosing and serum concentrations of pegfilgrastim are maintained during the period of neutropenia after myelosuppressive chemotherapy. The elimination of pegfilgrastim is non-linear with respect to dose; serum clearance of pegfilgrastim decreases with increasing dose. Pegfilgrastim appears to be mainly eliminated by neutrophil mediated clearance, which becomes saturated at higher doses. Consistent with a self-regulating clearance mechanism, the serum concentration of pegfilgrastim declines rapidly at the onset of neutrophil recovery (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Profile of median pegfilgrastim serum concentration and absolute neutrophil count (ANC) in chemotherapy treated patients after a single 6 mg injection**



Due to the neutrophil-mediated clearance mechanism, the pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim is not expected to be affected by renal or hepatic impairment. In an open-label, single dose study (n = 31) various stages of renal impairment, including end-stage renal disease, had no impact on the pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim.

#### Elderly

Limited data indicate that the pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim in elderly subjects (> 65 years) is similar to that in adults.

#### Paediatric population

The pharmacokinetics of pegfilgrastim were studied in 37 paediatric patients with sarcoma, who received 100 mcg/kg pegfilgrastim after the completion of VAdriaC/IE chemotherapy. The youngest age group (0-5 years) had a higher mean exposure to pegfilgrastim (AUC) ( $\pm$  Standard Deviation) ( $47.9 \pm 22.5$  mcg·hr/ml) than older children aged 6-11 years and 12-21 years ( $22.0 \pm 13.1$  mcg hr/ml and  $29.3 \pm 23.2$  mcg·hr/ml, respectively) (see section 5.1). With the exception of the youngest age group (0-5 years), the mean AUC in paediatric subjects appeared similar to that for adult patients with high-risk stage II-IV breast cancer and receiving 100 mcg/kg pegfilgrastim after the completion of doxorubicin/docetaxel (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Preclinical data from conventional studies of repeated dose toxicity revealed the expected pharmacological effects including increases in leukocyte count, myeloid hyperplasia in bone marrow, extramedullary haematopoiesis and splenic enlargement.

There were no adverse effects observed in offspring from pregnant rats given pegfilgrastim subcutaneously, but in rabbits pegfilgrastim has been shown to cause embryo/foetal toxicity (embryo loss) at cumulative doses approximately 4 times the recommended human dose, which were not seen when pregnant rabbits were exposed to the recommended human dose. In rat studies, it was shown that pegfilgrastim may cross the placenta. Studies in rats indicated that reproductive performance, fertility, oestrous cycling, days between pairing and coitus, and intrauterine survival were unaffected by pegfilgrastim given subcutaneously. The relevance of these findings for humans is not known.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Glacial acetic acid  
Sorbitol (E420)  
Polysorbate 20  
Sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment)  
Water for injections

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products, particularly with sodium chloride solutions.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years.

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C–8 °C).

Ziextenzo may be exposed to room temperature (not above 35 °C) for a maximum single period of up to 120 hours. Ziextenzo left at room temperature for more than 120 hours should be discarded.

Do not freeze. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for a single period of less than 24 hours does not adversely affect the stability of Ziextenzo.

Keep the container in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Pre-filled syringe (Type I glass), with a rubber plunger stopper (bromobutyl rubber, latex-free), a plunger rod, a stainless steel 29 gauge needle and a rubber needle cap (thermoplastic elastomer, latex-free) with an automatic needle guard.

Each pre-filled syringe contains 0.6 ml of solution for injection.

Pack size of one pre-filled syringe in a blistered packaging.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

Before use, Ziextenzo solution should be inspected visually for particulate matter. Only a solution that is clear and colourless to slightly yellowish should be injected.

Excessive shaking may aggregate pegfilgrastim, rendering it biologically inactive.

Allow the pre-filled syringe to reach room temperature for 15-30 minutes before using the syringe.

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

**7.     MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Sandoz GmbH  
Biochemiestr. 10  
6250 Kundl  
Austria

**8.     MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

EU/1/18/1327/001

**9.     DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 22 November 2018  
Date of latest renewal: 23 June 2023

**10.    DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

## **ANNEX II**

- A. MANUFACTURER(S) OF THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S) AND MANUFACTURER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE**
- B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE**
- C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION**
- D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

**A. MANUFACTURER(S) OF THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S) AND MANUFACTURER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE**

Name and address of the manufacturer(s) of the biological active substance(s)

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing LLC  
Kolodvorska Cesta 27  
SI-1234 Menges  
Slovenia

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing GmbH  
Biochemiestrasse 10  
AT-6250 Kundl  
Austria

Name and address of the manufacturer(s) responsible for batch release

Sandoz GmbH  
Schafftenau  
Biochemiestrasse 10  
6336 Langkampfen  
Austria

Novartis Pharmaceutical Manufacturing GmbH  
Biochemiestrasse 10  
6336 Langkampfen  
Austria

The printed package leaflet of the medicinal product must state the name and address of the manufacturer responsible for the release of the concerned batch.

**B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE**

Medicinal product subject to restricted medical prescription (see Annex I: Summary of Product Characteristics, section 4.2).

**C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION**

• **Periodic safety update reports (PSURs)**

The requirements for submission of PSURs for this medicinal product are set out in the list of Union reference dates (EURD list) provided for under Article 107c(7) of Directive 2001/83/EC and any subsequent updates published on the European medicines web-portal.

**D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

• **Risk management plan (RMP)**

The marketing authorisation holder (MAH) shall perform the required pharmacovigilance activities and interventions detailed in the agreed RMP presented in Module 1.8.2 of the marketing authorisation and any agreed subsequent updates of the RMP.

An updated RMP should be submitted:

- At the request of the European Medicines Agency;
- Whenever the risk management system is modified, especially as the result of new information being received that may lead to a significant change to the benefit/risk profile or as the result of an important (pharmacovigilance or risk minimisation) milestone being reached.

**ANNEX III**  
**LABELLING AND PACKAGE LEAFLET**

## **A. LABELLING**

## **PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING**

### **OUTER CARTON**

#### **1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Ziextenzo 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe  
pegfilgrastim

#### **2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)**

Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim in 0.6 mL (10 mg/mL) solution for injection.

#### **3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS**

Excipients: glacial acetic acid, sorbitol (E420), polysorbate 20, sodium hydroxide, water for injections.  
See leaflet for further information.

#### **4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS**

Solution for injection

1 pre-filled syringe with automatic needle guard containing 0.6 mL solution for injection.

#### **5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION**

Single use.

Read the package leaflet before use.

**Important:** Read the package leaflet before handling the pre-filled syringe.

Subcutaneous use.

#### **6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN**

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

#### **7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY**

Avoid vigorous shaking.

#### **8. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Store in a refrigerator.

Do not freeze.

Keep the container in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

**10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE**

**11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Sandoz GmbH  
Biochemiestr. 10  
6250 Kundl  
Austria

**12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

EU/1/18/1327/001

**13. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY**

**15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE**

**16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE**

Ziextenzo

**17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE**

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

**18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – HUMAN READABLE DATA**

PC  
SN  
NN

**MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON BLISTER OR STRIPS**

**BLISTER**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Ziextenzo 6 mg injection  
pegfilgrastim

**2. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

**3. EXPIRY DATE**

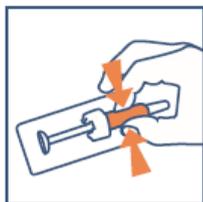
EXP

**4. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**5. OTHER**

SC



**MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS**  
**SYRINGE LABEL**

**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION**

Ziextenzo 6 mg injection  
pegfilgrastim  
SC

**2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**3. EXPIRY DATE**

EXP

**4. BATCH NUMBER**

Lot

**5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT**

**6. OTHER**

## **B. PACKAGE LEAFLET**

## Package leaflet: Information for the user

### Ziextenzo 6 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe pegfilgrastim

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### What is in this leaflet

1. What Ziextenzo is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Ziextenzo
3. How to use Ziextenzo
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Ziextenzo
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What Ziextenzo is and what it is used for

Ziextenzo contains the active substance pegfilgrastim. Pegfilgrastim is a protein produced by biotechnology in bacteria called *E. coli*. It belongs to a group of proteins called cytokines, and is very similar to a natural protein (granulocyte-colony stimulating factor) produced by your own body.

Ziextenzo is used to reduce the duration of neutropenia (low white blood cell count) and the occurrence of febrile neutropenia (low white blood cell count with a fever) which can be caused by the use of cytotoxic chemotherapy (medicines that destroy rapidly growing cells). White blood cells are important as they help your body fight infection. These cells are very sensitive to the effects of chemotherapy which can cause the number of these cells in your body to decrease. If white blood cells fall to a low level there may not be enough left in the body to fight bacteria and you may have an increased risk of infection.

Your doctor has given you Ziextenzo to encourage your bone marrow (part of the bone which makes blood cells) to produce more white blood cells that help your body fight infection.

#### 2. What you need to know before you use Ziextenzo

##### Do not use Ziextenzo

- if you are allergic to pegfilgrastim, filgrastim, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

## Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Ziextenzo:

- if you experience an allergic reaction including weakness, drop in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face (anaphylaxis), redness and flushing, skin rash and areas of the skin that itch.
- if you experience a cough, fever and difficulty breathing. This can be a sign of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).
- if you have any of the following or combination of the following side effects:
  - swelling or puffiness, which may be associated with passing water less frequently, difficulty breathing, abdominal swelling and feeling of fullness, and a general feeling of tiredness

These could be symptoms of condition called “Capillary Leak Syndrome” which causes blood to leak from the small blood vessels into your body. See section 4.

- if you get left upper abdominal pain or pain at the tip of your shoulder. This may be a sign of a problem with your spleen (splenomegaly).
- if you have recently had a serious lung infection (pneumonia), fluid in the lungs (pulmonary oedema), inflammation of the lungs (interstitial lung disease) or an abnormal chest x-ray (lung infiltration).
- if you are aware of any altered blood cell counts (e.g. increase in white blood cells or anaemia) or decreased blood platelet counts, which reduces the ability of your blood to clot (thrombocytopenia). Your doctor may want to monitor you more closely.
- if you have sickle cell anaemia. Your doctor may monitor your condition more closely.
- if you are a patient with breast cancer or lung cancer, Ziextenzo in combination with chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy may increase your risk of a precancerous blood condition called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or a blood cancer called acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). Symptoms may include tiredness, fever, and easy bruising or bleeding.
- if you have sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing these could be signs of a severe allergic reaction.
- if you have symptoms of inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body), this has been reported rarely in cancer patients and healthy donors. The symptoms can include fever, abdominal pain, malaise, back pain and increased inflammatory markers. Tell your doctor if you experience these symptoms.

Your doctor will check your blood and urine regularly as pegfilgrastim can harm the tiny filters inside your kidneys (glomerulonephritis).

Severe skin reactions (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) have been reported with the use of Ziextenzo. Stop using Ziextenzo and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the symptoms described in section 4.

You should talk to your doctor about your risks of developing cancers of the blood. If you develop or are likely to develop cancers of the blood, you should not use Ziextenzo, unless instructed by your doctor.

## Loss of response to pegfilgrastim

If you experience a loss of response or failure to maintain a response with pegfilgrastim treatment, your doctor will investigate the reasons why, including whether you have developed antibodies which neutralise pegfilgrastim’s activity.

## Other medicines and Ziextenzo

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine. Pegfilgrastim has not been tested in pregnant women. It is important to tell your doctor if you:

- are pregnant;
- think you may be pregnant; or
- are planning to have a baby.

If you become pregnant during Ziextenzo treatment, please inform your doctor.

Unless your doctor directs you otherwise, you must stop breast-feeding if you use Ziextenzo.

### **Driving and using machines**

Ziextenzo has no or negligible effect on the ability to drive or use machines.

### **Ziextenzo contains sorbitol (E420) and sodium**

This medicine contains 30 mg sorbitol in each pre-filled syringe which is equivalent to 50 mg/mL.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 6 mg dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How to use Ziextenzo**

Ziextenzo is for use in adults aged 18 and over.

Always use Ziextenzo exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure. The usual dose is one 6 mg subcutaneous injection (injection under your skin) using a pre-filled syringe and it should be given at least 24 hours after your last dose of chemotherapy at the end of each chemotherapy cycle.

### **Injecting Ziextenzo yourself**

Your doctor may decide that it would be more convenient for you to inject Ziextenzo yourself. Your doctor or nurse will show you how to inject yourself. Do not try to inject yourself if you have not been trained.

For further instructions on how to inject yourself with Ziextenzo, please read the section at the end of this leaflet.

Do not shake Ziextenzo vigorously as this may affect its activity.

### **If you use more Ziextenzo than you should**

If you use more Ziextenzo than you should contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

### **If you forget to inject Ziextenzo**

If you are injecting yourself and have forgotten a dose of Ziextenzo, you should contact your doctor to discuss when you should inject the next dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

#### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Please tell your doctor immediately if you have any of the following or combination of the following side effects:

- swelling or puffiness, which may be associated with passing water less frequently, difficulty breathing, abdominal swelling and feeling of fullness, and a general feeling of tiredness. These symptoms generally develop in a rapid fashion.

These could be symptoms of an uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people) condition called “Capillary Leak Syndrome” which causes blood to leak from the small blood vessels into your body and needs urgent medical attention.

**Very common side effects** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- bone pain. Your doctor will tell you what you can take to ease the bone pain.
- nausea and headaches.

**Common side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- pain at the site of injection.
- general aches and pains in the joints and muscles.
- some changes may occur in your blood, but these will be detected by routine blood tests. Your white blood cell count may become high for a short period of time. Your platelet count may become low which might result in bruising.

**Uncommon side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- allergic-type reactions, including redness and flushing, skin rash, and raised areas of the skin that itch.
- serious allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis (weakness, drop in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face).
- increased spleen size.
- spleen rupture. Some cases of splenic rupture were fatal. It is important that you contact your doctor immediately if you experience pain in the upper left side of the abdomen or left shoulder pain since this may relate to a problem with your spleen.
- breathing problems. If you have a cough, fever and difficulty breathing please tell your doctor.
- Sweet’s syndrome (plum-coloured, raised, painful lesions on the limbs and sometimes the face and neck with fever) has occurred but other factors may play a role.
- cutaneous vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels in the skin).
- damage to the tiny filters inside your kidneys (glomerulonephritis).
- redness at the site of injection.
- coughing up blood (haemoptysis)
- blood disorders (myelodysplastic syndrome [MDS] or acute myeloid leukaemia [AML]).

**Rare side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 1 000 people):

- inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body), see section 2.
- bleeding from the lung (pulmonary haemorrhage).
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome, which can appear as reddish target-like or circular patches often with central blisters on the trunk, skin peeling, ulcers of mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes and can be preceded by fever and flu-like symptoms. Stop using Ziextenzo if you develop these symptoms and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately. See also section 2.

#### Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via [the national reporting system](#)

listed in [Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store Ziextenzo

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on the syringe label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

You may take Ziextenzo out of the refrigerator and keep it at room temperature (not above 35 °C) for no longer than 120 hours. Once a syringe has been removed from the refrigerator and has reached room temperature (not above 35 °C) it must either be used within 120 hours or disposed of.

Do not freeze. Ziextenzo may be used if it is accidentally frozen for a single period of less than 24 hours.

Keep the container in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

Do not use this medicine if you notice it is cloudy or there are particles in it.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What Ziextenzo contains

- The active substance is pegfilgrastim. Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg of pegfilgrastim in 0.6 mL of solution.
- The other ingredients are glacial acetic acid, sorbitol (E420), polysorbate 20, sodium hydroxide and water for injections. See section 2 “Ziextenzo contains sorbitol (E420) and sodium”.

### What Ziextenzo looks like and contents of the pack

Ziextenzo is a clear, colourless to slightly yellowish solution for injection (injection) in a pre-filled syringe (6 mg/0.6 mL).

Each pack contains 1 glass pre-filled syringe with a rubber plunger stopper (bromobutyl rubber, latex-free), a plunger rod, an attached stainless steel 29 gauge needle and needle cap (thermoplastic elastomer, latex-free). The syringes are provided with an automatic needle guard.

### Marketing Authorisation Holder

Sandoz GmbH  
Biochemiestr. 10  
6250 Kundl  
Austria

### Manufacturer

Sandoz GmbH  
Biochemiestr. 10  
6336 Langkampfen  
Austria

Novartis Pharmaceutical Manufacturing GmbH  
Biochemiestrasse 10  
6336 Langkampfen  
Austria

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

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Sandoz nv/sa  
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**България**

Сандоз България КЧТ  
Тел.: +359 2 970 47 47

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**Danmark/Norge/Ísland/Sverige**

Sandoz A/S  
Tlf: +45 63 95 10 00

**Deutschland**

Hexal AG  
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**Eesti**

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SANDOZ HELLAS MONOΠΡΟΣΩΠΗ Α.Ε.  
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**France**

Sandoz SAS  
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**Hrvatska**

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**Ireland**

Rowex Ltd.  
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**Lietuva**

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals d.d filialas  
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**Malta**

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals d.d.  
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**Nederland**

Sandoz B.V.  
Tel: +31 36 52 41 600

**Österreich**

Sandoz GmbH  
Tel: +43 5338 2000

**Polska**

Sandoz Polska Sp. z o.o.  
Tel.: +48 22 209 70 00

**Portugal**

Sandoz Farmacêutica Lda.  
Tel: +351 21 000 86 00

**România**

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals SRL  
Tel: +40 21 407 51 60

**Slovenija**

Sandoz farmacevtska družba d.d.  
Tel: +386 1 580 29 02

**Slovenská republika**

Sandoz d.d. - organizačná zložka  
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**Italia**

Sandoz S.p.A.  
Tel: +39 02 96541

**Suomi/Finland**

Sandoz A/S  
Puh/Tel: +358 10 6133 400

**Κύπρος**

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Τηλ: +357 22 69 0690

**United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)**

Sandoz GmbH  
Tel: +43 5338 2000

**Latvija**

Sandoz d.d. Latvia filiāle  
Tel: +371 67 892 006

**This leaflet was last revised in.**

**Other sources of information**

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site:  
<http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

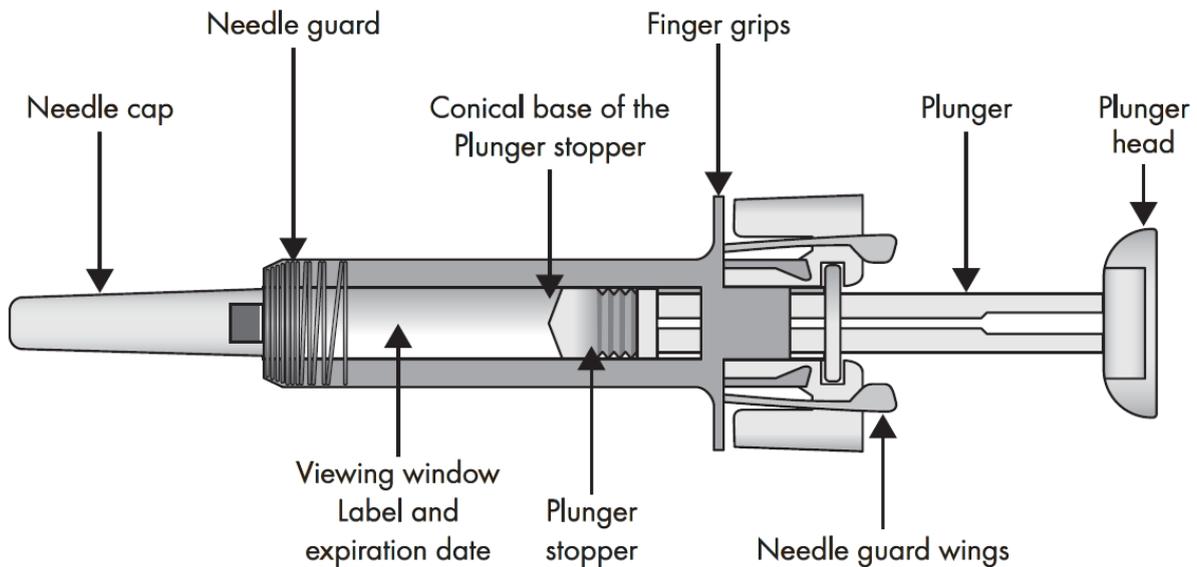
This leaflet is available in all EU/EEA languages on the European Medicines Agency website.

## Instructions for use of Ziextenzo pre-filled syringe with needle guard

To help avoid possible infections and to ensure that you use the medicine correctly, it is important that you follow these instructions.

Read ALL the way through these instructions before injecting. It is important not to try to inject yourself until you have been trained by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. The carton contains the pre-filled syringe individually sealed in a plastic blister.

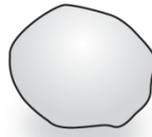
### Your Ziextenzo pre-filled syringe with needle guard



After the medicine has been injected, the needle guard will be activated to cover the needle. The needle guard is intended to protect healthcare professionals, caregivers and patients from accidental needle stick injuries after the injection.

### What you additionally need for your injection:

- Alcohol swab.
- Cotton ball or gauze.
- Sharps disposal container.



### Important safety information

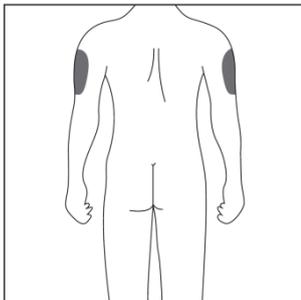
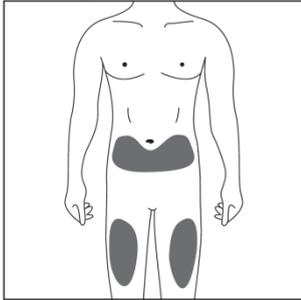
**Caution: Keep the pre-filled syringe out of the sight and reach of children.**

1. Do not open the carton until you are ready to use the pre-filled syringe.
2. Do not use the pre-filled syringe if the seal of the blister is broken, as it may not be safe for you to use.
3. Do not use the pre-filled syringe if there is liquid in the blister. Do not use the pre-filled syringe if the needle cap is missing or not securely attached. In all these instances, return the entire product pack to the pharmacy.
4. Never leave the pre-filled syringe unattended where others might tamper with it.
5. Do not shake the pre-filled syringe.
6. Be careful not to touch the needle guard wings before use. By touching them, the needle guard may be activated too early.
7. Do not remove the needle cap until just before you give the injection.
8. The pre-filled syringe cannot be re-used. Dispose of the used syringe immediately after use in a sharps container.
9. Do not use if the syringe has been dropped onto a hard surface or dropped after removing the needle cap.

### Storage of the Ziextenzo pre-filled syringe

1. Store the blistered pre-filled syringe in its carton to protect it from light.
2. Store in the refrigerator between 2 °C and 8 °C. **Do not freeze.**
3. Prior to use, remove the pre-filled syringe from the refrigerator and allow Ziextenzo to reach room temperature (up to a maximum of 35 °C) for approximately 15-30 minutes.
4. **Do not use** the pre-filled syringe after the expiry date which is stated on the carton or syringe label. If it has expired, return the entire pack to the pharmacy.

### The injection site



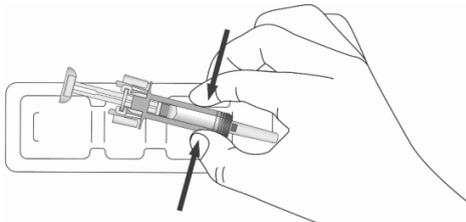
The injection site is the place on the body where you are going to use the pre-filled syringe.

- The recommended site is the front of your thighs. You may also use the lower abdomen, but **not** the area 5 centimetres around the navel (belly button).
- Choose a different site each time you give yourself an injection.
- Do not inject into areas where the skin is tender, bruised, red, scaly or hard. Avoid areas with scars or stretch marks.

If a caregiver is giving you the injection, the outer upper arms may also be used.

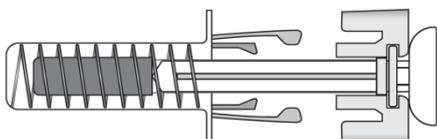
### Preparing the Ziextenzo pre-filled syringe ready for use

1. Take the carton containing the blistered pre-filled syringe out of the refrigerator and leave it **unopened** for approximately 15-30 minutes so that it reaches room temperature.
2. When you are ready to use the pre-filled syringe, open the blister and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
3. Clean the injection site with an alcohol swab.
4. Remove the pre-filled syringe from the blister by holding it in the middle as shown below. Do not grab the plunger. Do not grab the needle cap.



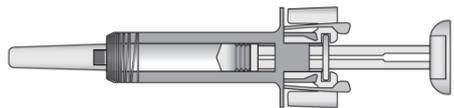
5. Check to ensure the plastic transparent needle guard is situated over the barrel of the glass syringe. If the transparent needle guard is covering the needle cap (as shown below) the syringe needle guard has been activated, **DO NOT** use this syringe and take a new syringe. The figure below shows a ready to use syringe.

Device ACTIVATED – DO NOT USE



**In this configuration the needle guard is ACTIVATED – DO NOT USE the pre-filled syringe**

Device READY TO BE USED

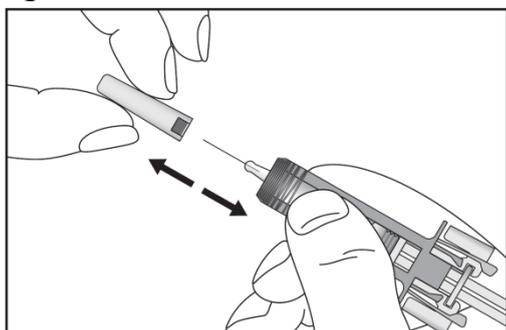


**In this configuration the needle guard is NOT ACTIVATED and the pre-filled syringe is ready for use**

6. Inspect the pre-filled syringe. The liquid should be clear. Its colour may vary from colourless to slightly yellowish. You may see a small air bubble in the liquid. This is normal. **Do not use** the pre-filled syringe if any other particulates and/or discolouration are observed.
7. **Do not use** if the syringe is broken or activated. Return the Ziextenzo pre-filled syringe and the package to your pharmacy.

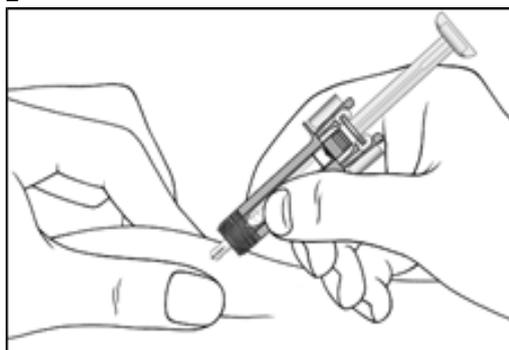
### How to use the Ziextenzo pre-filled syringe

1



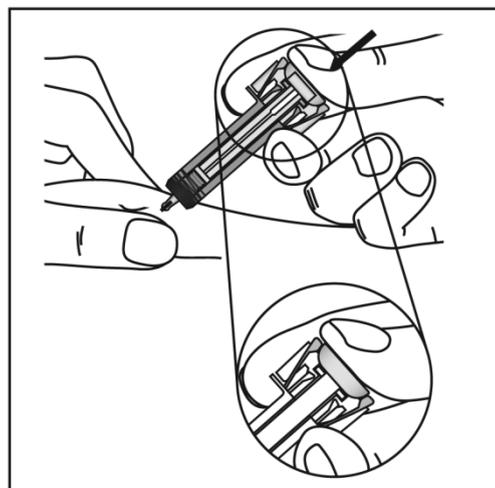
Carefully pull the needle cap straight off. Discard the needle cap. You may see a drop of liquid at the end of the needle. This is normal.

2



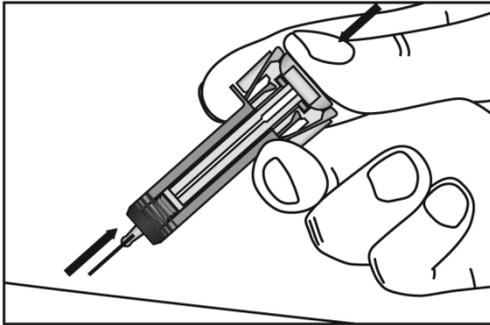
Gently pinch the skin at the injection site and insert the needle as shown. Push the needle all the way in to ensure that the medicine can be fully administered.

3



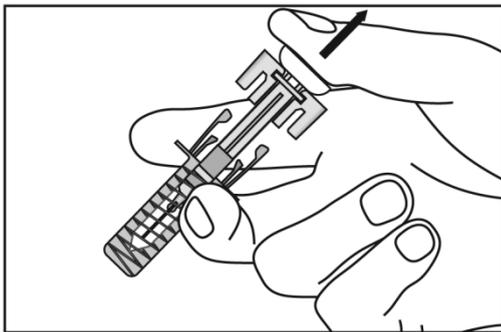
Holding the pre-filled syringe as shown, **slowly** depress the plunger **as far as it will go** so that the plunger head is completely between the needle guard wings. Keep the plunger pressed fully down while you hold the syringe in place for 5 seconds.

4



**Keep the plunger fully depressed** while you carefully pull the needle straight out from the injection site and let it go off your skin.

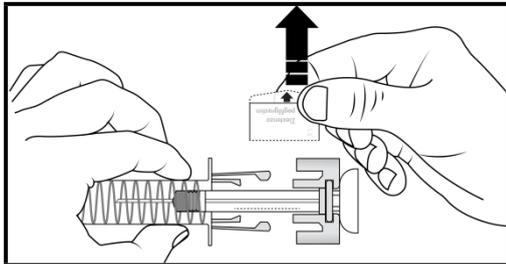
5



Slowly release the plunger and allow the syringe needle guard to automatically cover the exposed needle.

There may be a small amount of blood at the injection site. You can press a cotton ball or gauze onto the injection site and hold it for 10 seconds. Do not rub the injection site. You may cover the injection site with a small adhesive bandage, if needed.

6



**Healthcare providers only**

The trade name of the administered product should be clearly recorded in the patient file. Remove and save the pre-filled syringe label. Turn the plunger to move the label into a position where you can remove the syringe label.

7



**Disposal instructions**

Dispose of the used syringe in a sharps container (closable, puncture resistant container).

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your doctor or pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment. Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.