

Dear Sir/Madam

Update of cardiovascular safety warnings for NSAIDs SPC and PIL

Following an Article 5(3) procedure on the cardiovascular safety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and discussion at the Pharmacovigilance Working party and the Co-ordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Products – human (CMD(h)), all Marketing Authorisation (MA) holders for non-selective NSAIDs for systemic use throughout the European Union are being requested to submit type II variations (or equivalent national procedures – see below) for relevant products to implement the final agreed texts for prescription only (POM) and over the counter (OTC) medicines. The attached wordings have been agreed by the PhVWP and have already been the subject of consultation with the MA holders at EU level and are to be implemented without amendment.

The applications do not require supporting information and will be accepted by Member States Competent Authorities without further assessment or amendment. As a result MR and DC Type II variations will follow an expedited (30 day) process which can be finalised at day 15 as follows: The RMS takes responsibility on behalf of CMS to request the variation from the MA holder and initiate the procedure. By Day 0 the RMS notifies the CMSs and the MAH of the timetable. At Day 15 the RMS circulates the final SPC and PL (with and without track-changes) to the CMSs and the MAH and the procedure is closed. No PVAR/FVAR should be needed as the RMS should take responsibility for the assessment of the implementation of the final SPC and PL text. With regard to PL wording, a consultation with patient groups has been organised via the EMEA, and further user-testing by individual MA holders will not be expected on this occasion.

For nationally approved products the following process should be followed: {ADD NATIONAL PROCEDURE}

You should submit variations no later than 28 February 2007. You will be required to start incorporating updated PLs into new production batches within a 3-6 month timeframe, and no later than 31 August 2007.

Further information on the scientific basis of this regulatory action and questions and answers on the procedure for updating SPCs and PILs is available at.....

Yours sincerely