

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

URGENT COMMUNICATION

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

HSS(MD)14 /2007

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

To: Directors of Public Health
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control
Medical Directors of Trusts for onward cascade
to Consultants in Genitourinary Medicine and
Consultant Physicians with a special interest
in infectious diseases
General Practitioners

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)14/2007
Date: 7 June 2007

Dear Colleague

RECALL OF VIRACEPT (NELFINAVIR) DUE TO CONTAMINATION

I have been alerted with respect to the immediate recall of Viracept by the manufacturer Roche due to a contaminant ethyl mesylate, a genotoxic/carcinogenic agent. Viracept is authorised for treatment of HIV-1 infected adults, adolescents and children of 3 years of age and older.

I attach Professor Kent Woods' letter which outlines the key issues relating to the management of patients taking this drug, as well as the Drug Alert issued by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and Q and A's.

Yours sincerely

DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

cc: Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Chief Nursing Officer

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