

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 19/2007

To: Medical Directors of Trusts to forward to:
- Consultants in Genitourinary medicine and Infectious Disease Physicians
- Consultant Microbiologists/Virologists
- Occupational health departments
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- All Hospital Doctors
Directors of Public Health HSSBs to forward to Out of Hours Centres
Consultants in communicable disease control
Directors of Pharmacy in HSC Trusts
All General practitioners
Community Pharmacists
RQIA to forward to private hospitals/clinics registered with them

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Dear Colleague

UPDATE TO HIV POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) GUIDANCE FROM THE EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP ON AIDS (EAGA) FOLLOWING THE RECENT RECALL OF VIRACEPT (HSS(MD)14/2007 and PhC/10/07)

1. The recall of the antiretroviral Viracept (nelfinavir)¹ from the European market in June 2007 has implications for PEP, since Viracept is the currently recommended protease inhibitor component of PEP starter packs². EAGA has therefore recommended an update to its HIV PEP guidance, as an interim measure pending a complete update of the guidance, which is in preparation.
2. EAGA recommends that Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir) tablets be substituted for Viracept in PEP starter packs. In preliminary discussions regarding changes to the recommended PEP starter pack, EAGA had already concluded that Kaletra (tablet formulation) should be the preferred protease inhibitor (see below). Thus, the recommended regimen for PEP starter packs is:

One Combivir tablet (300mg zidovudine + 150mg lamivudine) b.d.

plus

Two Kaletra film-coated tablets (200mg lopinavir + 50mg ritonavir) b.d.

¹ [MHRA Class 1 Drug Alert - Nelfinavir recall](#)

² UK Health Departments. HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis: Guidance from the UK Chief Medical Officers' Expert Advisory Group on AIDS. Revised February 2004.

