

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

An Roinn
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

HSS(MD) 20/2007

To: All General Practitioners – for cascade to staff
including sessional doctors
Community Pharmacists
Directors of Public Health HSS Boards
Medical Directors of HSS Trusts – for cascade to
Consultants in relevant specialties
Directors of Nursing in HSS Boards and Trusts
Directors of Pharmacy in HSS Boards and Trusts
Directors of Primary Care in HSS Boards for
cascade to Out of Hours Services, Prescribing
Advisers and GP Advisers
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority for
cascade to Independent Healthcare
Establishments, Nursing and Residential Care
Homes

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 20/2007
Date: 25 July 2007

Dear Colleague

**RISK OF DEPRESSION AND SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR WITH ACOMPLIA
(RIMONABANT)**

I have been alerted to new advice on the risk of psychiatric reactions including depression and suicidal behaviour associated with Acomplia (rimonabant). Acomplia should not be prescribed to patients with ongoing major depressive illness and/or ongoing treatment with antidepressants.

Prescribers are asked to follow the guidance contained in the attached letter which has been issued by Professor Kent Woods, Chief Executive, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Yours sincerely

DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

MR MARTIN BRADLEY
Chief Nursing Officer

DR NORMAN MORROW
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

- This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which
- can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS
- Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.