

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride

URGENT COMMUNICATION

HSS(MD)36/2008

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Regional Medicines Information Centre

Dear Colleagues

Rimonabant (Acomplia): Suspension of Marketing Authorisation as Risks Outweigh Benefits

I am writing to alert you to the fact that the European Medicines Agency has completed a review of rimonabant (Acomplia – a treatment for obesity) after concerns about its psychiatric safety. The review has found that the benefits of rimonabant do not outweigh the risks of psychiatric reactions in clinical use. The marketing authorisation for this medicine will be suspended across the European Union.

Patients who are currently taking rimonabant should consult their doctor or pharmacist at a convenient time to discuss their treatment. If patients wish to stop taking rimonabant, it is safe to do so at any time.

Prescribers should not issue any prescriptions for rimonabant, and should review the treatment of those who are currently taking this medicine.

Patients who are currently enrolled in clinical trials of rimonabant may wish to contact the trial investigator (the doctor who is treating them), who will be able to give more



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

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD)36/2008

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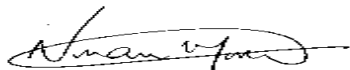
information. Trial investigators are being notified of this suspension of the marketing authorisation.

Further information is available in the attached document.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Dr Norman Morrow
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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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.