

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0563
Fax: 028 9052 0574
Email: Henrietta.Campbell@dhsspsni.gov.uk

URGENT COMMUNICATION

HSS(MD)31/2005

To:
All General Practitioners including Locums and
Out-of-Hours Centres
Chief Executives, Health and Social Services Boards
Chief Executives, Health and Social Services Trusts
Medical Directors, Health and Social Services Trusts (*for onward
dissemination to all consultant psychiatrists and consultant
paediatricians*)
Directors of Nursing, Health and Social Services Boards
Directors of Nursing, Health and Social Services Trusts (*for
onward dissemination to all nurses working in mental health
services and A&E Departments*)
Directors of Public Health, Health and Social Services Boards (*for
onward cascade to general practitioners by e-mail*)
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services at HSS Boards, HSS Trusts
and CSA
Community Pharmacists

Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)31/2005
Date: 30 September 2005

Dear Colleague

**NEW EVIDENCE ON THE RISK OF SUICIDAL THOUGHTS OR BEHAVIOURS WITH STRATTERA
(ATOMOXETINE)**

The Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM), chaired by Professor Gordon Duff, has highlighted new evidence relating to an increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviours in association with the use of Strattera (atomoxetine), which is indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children of six years and older, and in adolescents.

Attached to this letter are:

- a) a copy of the advice to prescribers from Professor Gordon Duff, Chairman of the CSM; and
- b) questions and answers sheet, which will be of assistance when discussing the risks with parents and patients.

The CSM and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are monitoring closely the safety of Strattera. All suspected adverse reactions to Strattera should be reported via the Yellow Card Scheme.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ian Carson
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Mr Francis Rice
Acting 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.

Working for a Healthier People

