



Castle Buildings  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast BT4 3SJ

Telephone: 028 90 523219  
Facsimile: 028 90 522335

E-Mail: [norman.morrow@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:norman.morrow@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

From The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
**Dr Norman Morrow**

**For Action:** Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of the Boards & CSA  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services of HSC Trusts  
Regional Quality Improvement Authority

Our reference: PHC/11/08  
Date: 6 August 2008

## **DRUG ALERT MEDICINES RECALL**

Dear Healthcare Professional

### **Diverted Product Distributed as Parallel Imports**

**Product: Celebrex Capsules 100mg supplied and packed for the Libyan market**

Original Lot Number	Pack Size	Expiry Date
810026339	30 Capsules	11 2010

We have been informed that some parallel importers have repacked and distributed this Pfizer Ltd product which was supplied for the Libyan market and diverted to the UK. The product was packed in French cartons for export.

This product is not counterfeit but there is a risk that the product has been stored and distributed to standards below those applied within the regulated EU GDP supply-chain.

**We are only aware of the one batch listed above being affected by this problem.**

Parallel Importers may have repacked this product into replacement cartons and used their own batch numbers. We have informed all Parallel Importers that they should contact all known recipients and arrange for all unused stock to be returned for credit.

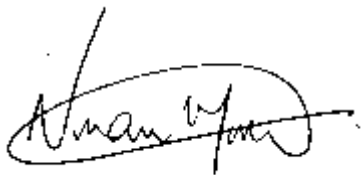
**We are not aware of any problems with original English packs from the UK Marketing Authorisation Holders - Pharmacia Ltd (Marketed by Pfizer Ltd) bearing the Product Licence number PL 00032/0399. These can continue to be used and distributed without any restrictions.**

If you require any additional information about the parallel-imported Celebrex please contact the importer directly. In case of difficulty please contact the PLPI section of the MHRA by calling Dr David Guest on 0207 084 2672.

Area Boards/RQIA should bring this information to the attention of private hospitals/clinics registered with them, Out of Hours Centres and any other relevant care facilities.

The Central Services Agency is asked to bring this information to the attention of Community Pharmacists and dispensing General Medical Practitioners **directly**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Morrow', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

**DR NORMAN MORROW**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

For information:

CMO  
CNO  
CDO  
CISSI  
SMO  
Director, Health Estates  
Public Health Branch  
DHSSPS, Library  
Extended nurse prescribers

Regional Medicines and Poisons Information Service  
Regional Director of Supplies  
RPLS  
Pharmaceutical Society of NI  
Senior Prison Pharmacist  
Prison Service, Dundonald House  
Nursing Officer, Health Estates  
Medical Officer, Castle Buildings  
Regional Procurement Pharmacist  
NICPPET