

Malta, 2 August 2005
Circular No. P15/2005

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Re: Non-selective NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs) and cardiovascular safety

Following the Medicines Authority's recent statement¹ regarding an epidemiological study associating ibuprofen and diclofenac with an increased risk of myocardial infarction, it was agreed at a European level to assess all available data on the non-selective NSAIDs² in order to establish whether there is a risk or not. The Medicines Authority has participated in these discussions held at the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and is of the opinion that the advice provided in the attached **press release** and **Q & A document** issued by the EMA is opportune and appropriate, and recommends prescribers to follow this advice when prescribing non-selective NSAIDs. The Medicines Authority will issue another statement when more data regarding this group of medicines is made available and assessed.

¹ MA Statement P14/2005 (10 June 2005): Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) and their recent association with an increased risk of myocardial infarction (heart attack)

² The non-selective NSAIDs currently included in the European review include: Diclofenac, Etodolac, Ibuprofen, Indomethacin, Ketoprofen, Meloxicam, Nabumetone, Naproxen and Nimesulide.