

To: All media

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Press release

Withdrawal of rosiglitazone-containing medicines from the South African (SA) market

The Medicines Control Council resolved at its meeting on 03 June, 2011, to withdraw all rosiglitazone-containing medicines from the SA market because of safety risks. Rosiglitazone is present in the following medicine: AVANDIA, which is used in the treatment of diabetes mellitus type 2 (formerly known as adult-onset diabetes or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus). Rosiglitazone is associated with an increased risk for cardiovascular (heart and blood vessels) adverse events, including heart failure myocardial infarction (heart attack) and cardiac arrest.

Several countries, including the EU and the UK, have already withdrawn rosiglitazone-containing products from their markets.

No new prescriptions for rosiglitazone containing medicines (AVANDIA) will be allowed.

Patients on rosiglitazone products should consult with their doctors about the management of their diabetes. While this change could happen at the next routine appointment, patients may wish to see their doctor sooner rather than later.

Patients who are concerned about their safety risks should not stop their treatment abruptly but should contact the health care practitioner supervising their diabetic treatment.

The switch to other suitable treatment should be completed within 3 (three) months of the date of this press release.

Ms Mandisa Hela
Registrar of Medicines