



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Gibraltar Health Authority will contact all patients who are currently on the Drug Avandia.

This morning Glaxo Smith Kline, marketers of the drug called Rosiglitazone which patients will know as Avandia®, Avandamet® and Avaglim® suspended further marketing of these drugs because of potential side effects.

The advice from the company is as follows:

- Prescribers are advised not to issue any new or repeat prescriptions of rosiglitazone-containing medicines
- Prescribers are advised to review currently treated patients and switch them to suitable alternative treatment
- Pharmacists are advised to refer patients to their doctor for advice on their treatment
- Patients are advised to make an appointment to discuss their treatment and not to stop taking rosiglitazone without consulting their doctor.

In response the GHA wishes to announce the following plan to assess all 175 patients who it has identified are currently being prescribed the drug.

The GHA will be contacting all patients over the next 4 days and will provide them with an appointment with the Diabetic Nurse Specialist or their doctor.

The GHA is establishing extra GP appointments and extra clinics which will be run over the next two weeks. The extra clinics will be run by the Diabetic Nurse Specialist Julie Parker and Dr Lorenc, Consultant Endocrinologist. These have been set up to deal with the required changes in medication which may include transfer to another similar type of medication or an alternate treatment. Patients in the Elderly Care Agency will be assessed either by Dr Poyatos, Dr Mena or the Nurse Specialist Julie Parker.

Those without existing appointments with their family doctor or for whom timely appointments are not possible, will be given appointments with the special clinics.

If you are a patient on the drug and have not received a call from the GHA by Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September please call the Primary Care Centre and leave a message for the Diabetes Nurse Specialist Julie Parker. She will make the necessary arrangements to return your call with the necessary appointment.

The GHA wishes to reiterate that patients are advised to make an appointment to discuss their treatment and not to stop taking rosiglitazone prior to seeing their doctor.