

**Public Communication**  
**Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on rosiglitazone**  
**(<sup>Pr</sup>AVANDIA<sup>®</sup>, <sup>Pr</sup>AVANDAMET<sup>®</sup> and <sup>Pr</sup>AVANDARYL<sup>™</sup>)**



November 6, 2007

**Subject: New restrictions on the use of AVANDIA<sup>®</sup>, AVANDAMET<sup>®</sup> and AVANDARYL<sup>™</sup> (rosiglitazone products) due to cardiac safety concerns**

GlaxoSmithKline Inc., in consultation with Health Canada, would like to inform you of important new restrictions on which patients with type 2 diabetes can use rosiglitazone-containing products: Avandia<sup>®</sup> (rosiglitazone), Avandamet<sup>®</sup> (contains both rosiglitazone and metformin), and Avandaryl<sup>™</sup> (contains both rosiglitazone and glimepiride).

Based on a Health Canada review of information available on cardiovascular (heart-related) safety, the consumer and prescriber sections of the official Canadian Product Monographs for rosiglitazone-containing products are being updated and will include the following new usage restrictions:

- **Rosiglitazone (Avandia<sup>®</sup>) is no longer approved for use alone to treat type 2 diabetes, except when metformin\* use is contraindicated or not tolerated.**
- **Rosiglitazone is no longer approved for use with a sulfonylurea drug\*\* (such as glyburide), except when metformin is contraindicated or not tolerated.**
- **Rosiglitazone should not be used if you have heart failure, or have experienced heart failure in the past.**
- **Patients who are taking rosiglitazone, especially those with underlying heart disease, or those who are at high risk of heart attack or heart failure, should talk to their doctor about the benefits and risks of continuing rosiglitazone therapy.**

\* **Metformin** is an anti-diabetic drug which is sold in Canada as Glucophage, Glumetza or

in generic forms with “metformin” as part of the name.

- \*\* Drugs that are considered “**sulfonylurea drugs**” include the following: glyburide (e.g. Diabeta and generic forms of glyburides), glimepiride (Amaryl and generic forms of Glimepiride), gliclazide (Diamicon and generic forms of gliclazide), chlorpropamide (generic forms of Chlorpropamide, Novo-Propamide), and tolbutamide (generic forms of Tolbutamide).

#### **Other important restrictions:**

- **Rosiglitazone should not be taken if you are using insulin.**
- **Rosiglitazone should not be used in ‘triple therapy’** (triple therapy is therapy with rosiglitazone in combination with both metformin and a sulfonylurea drug).

#### **Combination Use**

When adequate blood sugar control is not obtained through diet and exercise plus monotherapy (use of one anti-diabetic agent at a time), then rosiglitazone can be used in combination therapy, as follows:

- use in combination with metformin; or
- when metformin is contraindicated or not tolerated, use in combination with a sulfonylurea drug.

Rosiglitazone can cause your body to keep extra fluid (fluid retention), which can make some heart problems worse, and lead to heart failure, swelling and weight gain.

If you have questions regarding your current prescription, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

GSK has sent a letter to Canadian health-care professionals informing them of this new safety information. You may view this letter on the Canadian website of GSK ([www.gsk.ca](http://www.gsk.ca)) or on the website of the Therapeutic Products Directorate of Health Canada ([http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2007/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/2007/index_e.html)).

Managing marketed health product-related adverse reactions depends on health care professionals and consumers reporting them. Reporting rates determined on the basis of spontaneously reported post-marketing adverse reactions are generally presumed to underestimate the risks associated with health product treatments. As always, any serious or unexpected adverse reactions in patients receiving Avandia<sup>®</sup>, Avandamet<sup>®</sup> and Avandaryl<sup>™</sup> should be reported to GlaxoSmithKline or Health Canada at the following addresses:

GlaxoSmithKline Inc.  
7333 Mississauga Road  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5N 6L4  
Tel.: 1-800-387-7374  
[www.gsk.ca](http://www.gsk.ca)

**Any suspected adverse reaction can also be reported to:**

Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Program (CADRMP)  
Marketed Health Products Directorate  
HEALTH CANADA  
Address Locator: 0701C  
OTTAWA, Ontario, K1A 0K9  
Tel: (613) 957-0337 or Fax: (613) 957-0335  
To report an Adverse Reaction, consumers and health professionals may call toll free:  
Tel: 866 234-2345; Fax: 866 678-6789  
[cadrmp@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cadrmp@hc-sc.gc.ca)

The [AR Reporting Form](#) and the [AR Guidelines](#) can be found on the Health Canada web site or in *The Canadian Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties*.

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/form/ar-ei\\_form\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/form/ar-ei_form_e.html)

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/guide/ar-ei\\_guide-ldir\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/guide/ar-ei_guide-ldir_e.html)

**For other inquiries related to this communication, please contact Health Canada at:**

Marketed Health Products Directorate (MHPD)  
E-mail: [MHPD\\_DPSC@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:MHPD_DPSC@hc-sc.gc.ca)  
Tel: (613) 954-6522; Fax: (613) 952-7738  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/public/2007/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/public/2007/index_e.html)

For media inquiries, please contact GSK Corporate Communications, (905) 819-3363.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Dr. Tjark Reblin, MD, MBA  
Vice President, Medical Division and Chief Medical Officer  
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

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