

12 July 2010



MEDSAFE

NEW ZEALAND MEDICINES
AND MEDICAL DEVICES
SAFETY AUTHORITY

A BUSINESS UNIT OF
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

www.medsafe.govt.nz

Dear Pharmacist

Re: Medsafe advice regarding residual Paradex and Capadex stock in pharmacies from 1 August 2010

Medsafe has received queries from pharmacists seeking clarification on the ability to dispense Capadex and Paradex (dextropropoxyphene) stock remaining in pharmacies when the consents for these medicines are revoked on 1 August 2010. This letter provides guidance for pharmacists to ensure they are aware of their obligations under the Medicines Act 1981.

On 1 August 2010, the consents to distribute Paradex and Capadex under the Medicines Act 1981 (the Act) will be revoked. This means that they will become unapproved medicines for the purposes of the Act.

Medsafe recognises that some pharmacies may be left with residual stocks of Capadex and Paradex on 1 August 2010. Pharmacists are reminded that in this situation the consents have been revoked on safety grounds and that Capadex and Paradex should not be dispensed from residual stock held in the pharmacy.

As previously advised, Medsafe encourages pharmacists to wind down their stocks of Capadex and Paradex ahead of the 1 August 2010 revocation date. Pharmacists are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with the evidence that led to the decision to revoke the consents for these medicines. This information is available from the Medsafe website at:
<http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/hot/alerts.asp>.

Pharmacists should also be aware that from 1 August 2010 it will no longer be lawful to advertise Capadex or Paradex. In practical terms, this means that pharmacists should not advise patients or healthcare professionals that they hold supplies of Capadex or Paradex.

I hope this information clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Jessamine
Group Manager
Medsafe