

Ms Veronica Alexander  
Room 3-0  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
1 London  
SW1W 9SZ

1 December 2010

Dear Ms Alexander,

**Re: Arm 71 Radian B Ibuprofen 5%w/w gel 100g**

We write on behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) to respond to the above consultation document.

The RPS is the new professional body for every pharmacist in Great Britain. We are the only body that represents all sectors of pharmacy in Great Britain and currently have 49,000 members. There are approximately 75 pharmacists per parliamentary constituency, working in hospitals, industry, academia, GP practices, primary care trusts and community pharmacies. The RPS leads and supports the development of the pharmacy profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society does not support the reclassification of Radian B Ibuprofen 5%w/w gel 100g from P to GSL. The patient information leaflet repeatedly advises patients to seek advice from a doctor or pharmacist. In non-pharmacies where general sale list medicines are supplied professional advice is not available to customers. Sales through pharmacies have been shown to be safe because trained staff are available to counsel customers appropriately about medicines and/or deal with any questions that may arise.

In addition we request that the following point is taken into consideration:

Patient Information Leaflet

Section 2. Before you apply Radian B

This section advises patients to talk to their doctor or pharmacist if they are taking, or have recently taken any other medicines including prescriptions medicines. Non-pharmacies would not be able to highlight any potential interactions or provide additional information about interactions.

Section 3. How to use Radian B

This section includes a statement that children under the age of 14 should not use the product unless it is recommended by their doctor. As a P medicine, trained pharmacy staff can ensure that this advice is followed and a child under the age of 14 does not self-select the product for use. This safeguard will not be in place if the product is available from non-pharmacies.

Section 4. Possible side effects

This section advises patients to stop using the product immediately and speak to their doctor or pharmacist if they experience certain side effects, if the reported occasional side effects become

severe, or if they experience side effects not listed in the leaflet. If a larger pack size is made available as a GSL medicine, patients may continue to use the product and not seek advice from a pharmacist. The availability of smaller pack sizes may prompt patients to ask for further guidance before purchasing another pack.

We hope these comments are useful.

Thank you for contacting the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen Chang  
Senior Professional Support Pharmacist