

Medsafe is seeking comments on:

Whether you support the proposed changes to warning statements regarding use in pregnancy.

- Is there a need to include this wording on the packaging?

- Is the wording acceptable? If you do not support the wording of the statements please make suggestions for alternatives acceptable to you.

The Guild supports the proposal to change the warning statements regarding the use of NSAIDs in pregnancy. We believe there is a need to include this wording on the packaging as this would aid the consumer to make an informed choice at the time of purchase.

We feel the wording of the warning statement needs to reflect all health professionals that provide care for pregnant women (eg, midwives and pharmacists) not just doctors. We could like to suggest the following alternative warning statement.

“Do not use [product name] if trying to become pregnant or during the first 6 months of pregnancy except on advice from your doctor, midwife or pharmacist ”

Do you agree with the proposed list of medicines this statements should apply to?

- If you do not support this, please provide your reasoning.

Yes, we agree with the proposed list of medicines the warning statement should apply to.

What is a suitable target date for implementation?

- Please provide justification

Implementation needs to allow sufficient time for current stock to move through the supply chain. We feel 12 months is sufficient time for implementation.

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

This proposal highlights the potential risks of taking NSAIDS during pregnancy. NSAIDS also pose significant risks for other population groups (eg, people with kidney disease, asthma and those taking medicines such as lithium, ace inhibitors and diuretics). It therefore concerns us that some NSAIDS can be purchased as unsupervised general sales medicines from retail outlets without verbal advice or counselling from a health care professional.

Medicines are not ordinary items of commerce and in the interest of public safety we believe Medsafe should review the general sale classification of NSAIDS.

Thank you for considering our response.