

Amanda Lawrence
Policy Advisor & Reclassification Manager
Department of Health
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Room 14 – 152 Market Towers
1 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON
SW8 5NQ

FITNESS TO PRACTISE AND LEGAL
AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

Telephone: 020 7572 2213

Facsimile: 020 7572 2510

e-mail: mandie.lavin@rpsgb.org

By email and by post

Ref: d0002aaa

16 August 2004

Dear Ms Lawrence

**Re: Consultation Document: ARM 21
Request to reclassify a product from P to GSL**

I write on behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to respond to the above consultation document. The Society welcomes the opportunity to comment and gives permission for all responses in this case to be publicised.

The Role of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB)

The RPSGB is the regulatory and professional body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. The primary objective of the Society is to lead, regulate and develop the pharmacy profession.

The Society has responsibility for a wide range of functions that combine to assure competence and fitness to practise. These include controlled entry into the profession, education, registration, setting and enforcing professional standards, promoting good practice, providing support for improvement, dealing with poor performance, dealing with misconduct and removal from the register.

In addition, the Society leads and supports the development of the profession in the public interest and promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

The Society does not agree with the above proposal as it would not be in the public interest. There could be an underlying condition that would benefit from discussion with a pharmacist or qualified counter assistant. The public are less likely to have a discussion regarding clinical symptoms in an environment such as a local garage.

We are not convinced that necessary safeguards are in place.

Yours sincerely

Miss Mandie Jane Lavin
Director of Fitness to Practise & Legal Affairs