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Ref: SK01/05
11 January 2005

Dear Ms Lawrence,

Re: ARM 26 – Request to raise GSL pack size limit for Dulco-lax (bisacodyl 5mg) tablets

I write on behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to respond to the above consultation document.

The Society believes that the public is best protected by purchasing their medicines through pharmacy where professional advice is available.

The Society cannot support the proposal of the increased pack size of Dulco-lax tablets. We believe that from a public health perspective, there is no clear public health benefit to be gained by providing a larger pack size of Dulco-lax tablets. Constipation may mask a more serious underlying condition and the availability of a larger pack may indicate to members of the public that they can continue to use the tablets more frequently than would be encouraged. In addition, there is a potential for increasing misuse of the product from sales to individuals with eating disorders which is a significant problem.

In non-pharmacies where General Sales List medicines are supplied, there is no professional advice available to customers.

Thank you for consulting the Society.

Yours sincerely,

Sadia Khan
Practice Pharmacist