



Dear Colleague

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR REIMBURSING ADDITIONAL
PRESCRIBING COSTS FOR CELECOXIB ARISING
FROM THE SCOT STUDY ON THE RELATIVE SAFETY
OF NSAID THERAPIES SPONSORED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF NSAID THERAPIES**

Purpose

1. This Circular promulgates arrangements for the reimbursement to NHS Boards of certain additional costs arising from the prescription of celecoxib in the Standard Case versus Celecoxib Outcome Trail (SCOT Study) sponsored by the University of Dundee which examines the relative safety of NSAID therapies prescribed in usual care.

Background

2. [The European Medicines Evaluation Agency](#) requested that a study be done to compare the cardiovascular and gastrointestinal safety of celecoxib versus other chronic NSAID therapy prescribed for arthritis in the indicated population in Europe. The SCOT study is an investigator-initiated study. Whilst funding is provided by Pfizer the trial is run independently by the Scot study steering committee and the trial sponsor is the University of Dundee. The study is collaborative and also involves the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and the University of Southern Denmark.

As the sponsor of the SCOT study the University of Dundee has undertaken to repay NHS Scotland for the cost of prescribing and dispensing celecoxib for the duration of the study which is likely to last between 3-4 years. Funding for celecoxib will continue at the end of the trial until the study results are made public. Pfizer will in turn fund the University of Dundee on receipt of the total actual amount spent.

27 May 2008

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information
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Detail

In conjunction with the Robertson Centre for Biostatistics at Glasgow University, the sponsor will track all prescriptions generated from all GP practices participating in the SCOT study. This information will consist of the number of scripts, strength, duration and cost generated by each practice by each NHS Board. A spreadsheet report in Excel format listing the additional celecoxib costs generated by GP practice as a result of participation in the trial will be prepared by the Sponsor and shared with NHS NSS Practitioner Services Division, SG Health Finance Directorate and individual NHS Boards for checking.

The sponsor will provide SG Health Finance Directorate on a quarterly basis with a reimbursement for the agreed additional drug costs plus a nominal dispensing fee of 91.7p, being the current shadow rate for community pharmacy contractors not in transition.

The funds received will then be redistributed between NHS Boards in proportion to the costs incurred through periodic adjustments to their general allocations.

The funds thus provided are intended to reimburse NHS Boards for the local costs of co-operation with the study.

It is anticipated that the first spreadsheet report covering costs in the period April-July 2008 will be issued in September 2008 and subsequent reports will be issued 3 monthly thereafter.

Action

NHS Boards are requested to copy this Circular to all their GP Practices, Community Pharmacy Contractors and Community Health Partnerships.

Yours sincerely,

DR HARRY BURNS
Chief Medical Officer

PROF BILL SCOTT
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer