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Suspension of Sibutramine

Sibutramine: National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guideline withdrawn

On 21 January 2010, the MHRA announced the suspension of the marketing authorisation for the obesity drug sibutramine (Reductil). This followed a review by the European Medicines Agency which found that the cardiovascular risks of sibutramine outweigh its benefits. NICE has therefore issued a statement announcing the withdrawal of clinical guideline 43 which recommended sibutramine for the treatment of obesity in certain circumstances. NICE states that healthcare professionals should follow the MHRA advice.

- <http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/SibutramineMarketingAuthorisationSuspended.jsp>

The European-wide review of the anti-obesity drug **Sibutramine (Reductil)** has concluded and an opinion reached recommending the suspension of the licence for the medicine across Europe, including the UK.

The MHRA and European Medicines Agency (EMA) recommendations are as follows:

- Pharmacists should no longer dispense sibutramine-containing medicine
- Doctors should stop prescribing sibutramine-containing medicines to obese or overweight patients. They should also review the treatment of patients currently treated with the medicine.

For further information, see:

- [MHRA Press Release](#)
- [European Medicines Agency website](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)

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- [Department of Health Alert](#)

