



October 1, 2004

IMPORTANT NOTICE: VIOXX UPDATE

Dear Provider:

Merck & Co., Inc. has announced a voluntary withdrawal of Vioxx (Rofecoxib) from the market due to safety concerns. In response, Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority (Authority), working together with MedImpact, has removed Vioxx from the formulary. The Authority will allow processing of an alternative, such as the preferred drug Celebrex, or another such as Mobic. This processing will be allowed without the completion of another Medical Request Form (MRF).

Moving forward, MedImpact has been instructed to redirect all pending prior authorizations for Vioxx back to the prescribing provider requesting the consideration of alternative treatment options. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dawn Seward, Health Services Pharmacy Technician, at extension 213.

As always, we fully appreciate and value the services you provide to the members of the Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority.

Sincerely,

Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority