



Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration

Date January 12, 2006

Dear Veteran:

The VA would like to inform you that **vardenafil (Levitra)** has replaced sildenafil (Viagra) on the VA National Formulary for the treatment of erectile dysfunction effective February 6, 2006. Vardenafil works the same way as sildenafil and has many of the same side effects and drug interactions. Please review the following points and contact your health care provider or VA pharmacy if you have any questions or concerns:

- ✓ When the VA pharmacy's supply of sildenafil runs out, you will receive **vardenafil** instead.
- ✓ **Vardenafil** is available in 2.5, 5, 10, and 20 mg tablets, which are different strengths than sildenafil. Your dose has been adjusted based on your previous dose of sildenafil and the other medications you take.
- ✓ Please check the label instructions for the correct number of tablets you are to take.
- ✓ If you find your response to **vardenafil** differs from sildenafil, please contact your health care provider.
- ✓ **Vardenafil** can be taken with or without food.
- ✓ **Vardenafil** should be taken 1 hour before sexual activity and only one dose should be taken in a 24 hour period.
- ✓ Like sildenafil, **vardenafil** can cause a drop in your blood pressure which may make you feel dizzy or faint, and should not be taken if you are taking nitrates or nitroglycerin. Contact your health care provider immediately if you experience a loss of or change in vision in one or both eyes.
- ✓ Call your VA pharmacy or healthcare provider if you have any questions or problems with this change in your medicine.

Sincerely,