

Date

Dear Veteran:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has asked the makers of valdecoxib (Bextra®) to stop selling their product in the United States. The FDA has concluded that there may be more risks than benefits with valdecoxib. Valdecoxib is a member of the COX-2 inhibitor drug class. Another COX-2 inhibitor (rofecoxib or Vioxx®) was taken off the market in October of 2004.

As a result, the VA recommends that you should stop taking your valdecoxib and contact your VA healthcare provider or pharmacist for an alternative medication.

Please return any portion(s) of your unused medication to your VA pharmacist the next time you visit your VA provider. In the interim, VA will be negotiating with the distributor in an effort to obtain reimbursement for copayments associated with the returned medication. As progress is made we will keep those veterans who have made copayments informed.

If you have any questions, please contact your VA pharmacist or your VA provider.

Sincerely,