



**Important Notification
Time Sensitive Information**

[letter date]

[Providers name]
[providers address line 1]
[providers address line 2]
[provider city], [providers state] [providers zip]

Re: Medication alert for rosiglitazone

Dear [Provider]:

This letter serves as a safety monitor to ensure that our member's primary care physicians and prescribing physician(s) are aware of all medications that could cause potential harm. On September 23, 2010, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced regulatory actions with respect to products containing rosiglitazone (Avandia). HealthSpring reviewed pharmacy paid claims data from April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 where members filled prescriptions for Avandia, Avandamet, or Avandaryl. This data indicates that one or more of your patients have filled one of these medications that could be harmful. These patients are identified at the end of this letter.

The FDA has reviewed a number of studies in which patients taking medications containing rosiglitazone were found to have increased risk of cardiovascular events including congestive heart failure and myocardial ischemia. The FDA is requiring the manufacturer of these medications, GlaxoSmithKline, to implement restrictions on the use of these products through a program to assure their safe use (i.e. Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, or REMS). This program will take several months to implement but once in place, users of rosiglitazone will only be able to continue using the medication if they acknowledge and document that they understand the risks associated with the drug. Providers will also be required to document that patients fully understand the risks, and benefits associated with the use of this medication.

For your convenience, HealthSpring has listed the formulary alternatives below.

Class	Examples
Meglitinides	Nateglinide Repaglinide
Thiazolidinediones	Pioglitazone
Biguanides	Metformin
Sulfonylureas	Glimiperide Glyburide Chlorpropamide Tolazamide
Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors	Miglitol Arcabose



DDP-4 Inhibitor	Sitagliptin
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If you have any questions or would like to make us aware of any concerns, please contact HealthSpring's Pharmacy Quality Department at 615-565-8114 or email us at fax-pharmquality@healthspring.com. You may also call toll-free at 1-866-952-7565. Thank you for your collaboration in our efforts to ensure the patient's safety.

Sincerely,

Elio A. Fernandez M.D.

Elio Fernandez, MD
Pharmacy Medical Director

Member Name:

Member ID:

Date Filled	Medication Name and Strength	Qty	Day Supply	Prescribing Physician
XXX	XXX	XX	XX	«PrescriberPrescriber_Name»
XXX	XXX	XX	XX	«PrescriberPrescriber_Name»