[practice logo]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | [practice address] |
|  | [practice address] |
|  | [practice address] |
|  | [practice address] |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | Tel: [practice telephone] |
|  | [Practice website] |
|  |  |

[date]

Dear [patient’s name]

**RE: Prescription for dosulepin**

Our records show that you recently collected a prescription for a drug called dosulepin.

We are writing to all the patients at the practice that are taking this drug, to encourage them to make an appointment to discuss an alternative treatment. The reason for this is that there are some safety concerns with dosulepin and there may be a more suitable and safer drug that the practice can offer you.

Dosulepin has been linked to effects on the heart and circulatory system, such as changes in the heart rhythm and low blood pressure. It should be avoided in many health conditions, for example patients with heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease, epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease.

Dosulepin has been associated with accidental overdose, and even small accidental overdoses have been shown to be dangerous. It can be much more harmful than other antidepressants when mixed with alcohol, and can also affect the way other medicines work.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) do not recommend that dosulepin is prescribed for people with depression because evidence says that there are other antidepressant drugs that have less side effects and have less risks associated with them. The drug is sometimes used in other conditions, such as fibromyalgia or pain, however use of the drug in this way is also not recommended, for the same safety reasons described above.

We appreciate that changing antidepressant therapy may cause concern for some patients, however we are committed to the safe use of medicines and providing the best healthcare for our patients.

Please make an appointment at the surgery at a convenient time to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

[name of GP]

[name of practice]