

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT CABASER

Pfizer Australia has informed us about important safety changes to Cabaser[®] (cabergoline) in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and the availability of one of the strengths. These changes will come into effect on 1st November 2008.

The safety changes are due to an ongoing review of clinical studies that looked at the development of serious side effects affecting the heart, lungs and kidneys in patients taking certain medicines, including Cabaser, for Parkinson's disease.

These serious side effects are not new but are more likely to occur when taking Cabaser at higher doses and for a long time. It is expected that the chances of experiencing heart valve, lung and kidney problems will be reduced by limiting the maximum daily dose of Cabaser.

The maximum daily dose of Cabaser will therefore be reduced from 6 mg a day to 3 mg a day and patients will no longer be able to be prescribed the 4 mg tablets from November 1 2008.

Cabaser 1mg and 2 mg tablets are not affected by these changes and will continue to be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Cabaser remains an important treatment option for patients with Parkinson's disease and Pfizer Australia is committed to patient safety.

Pfizer Australia is letting healthcare professionals know about these important changes.

If you are taking Cabaser please see your doctor to discuss the best treatment options. If you are unable to see your doctor before the 1 November 2008, you should continue taking Cabaser tablets as you would normally until your doctor reviews your treatment.

The Consumer Medicine Information for Cabaser advises that Cabaser may cause heart valve problems or may affect lung and kidney function. It also states that it is important that patients have the tests that their doctor has ordered while they are taking Cabaser. These tests include chest x-rays, physical examinations, blood tests and heart monitoring. Further information on these tests is included in the Consumer Medicine Information.

If you wish to seek further clarification of the information contained in this article, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or Pfizer Australia Medical Affairs on 1800 675 229. A copy of the **revised** Consumer Medicine Information for Cabaser will be available from pharmacists on 1 November 2008.