



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Health Administration**

Date 2003

Dear Veteran:

The VA will now use **loratadine (Claritin®)** for common allergy symptoms (e.g., itchy, runny nose, sneezing and itchy, watery eyes). **Loratadine** is safe and works in the same way as fexofenadine (Allegra®) for your allergies. Your doctor has agreed to change your medicine to **loratadine**.

- You will get **Loratadine** instead of fexofenadine at your next refill. You may take the rest of your fexofenadine before you start taking the **loratadine**.
- Most patients will take **loratadine** 10 mg (one tablet) once a day. A few patients will only take 10mg every other day. Please read the directions on your label when you get your medicine in the mail.
- You can take **Loratadine** with or without food.
- The side effects of **loratadine** are like fexofenadine. Some patients may get a headache or feel drowsy.
- Call the pharmacy or your doctor if you have any questions or problems with the change in your medicine.

Sincerely,