

<INSERT vamac name, address, phone, etc>

Date

Dear Veteran:

As you may already be aware from news reports, Vioxx®, also known as rofecoxib, will no longer be available anywhere in the world. Merck & Co., the makers of rofecoxib, have stated that the reason it will no longer be available is that in a recent study, more people taking rofecoxib had heart attacks or strokes compared to people who were not taking it.

Due to this possible side effect, you should contact your VA <INSERT pharmacist, physician, healthcare provider, etc.> to discuss discontinuing rofecoxib and possibly switching to an alternative medication. These alternative medications will be similar to rofecoxib, but studies to date have not shown them to have the same risk for side effects such as heart attack or stroke as rofecoxib.

Please return any portion(s) of your unused medication to your VA pharmacist the next time you visit your VA provider. VA is currently developing a process for co-payment adjustments and you will be notified of this process as soon as possible. VA is committed to ensuring that this situation does not create any additional prescription co-payment costs for you.

If you have any questions, please contact your VA pharmacist or your VA provider at <INSERT phone number>.

Sincerely,

<INSERT sender>