Re: Consultation: NSAIDS for oral use: proposed additional advisory statements for medicines

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national professional organisation for over 3,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia’s health system. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with a core base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other health service facilities.

SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core business of pharmacists, especially in hospitals. SHPA supports pharmacists to meet medication and related service needs, so that both optimal health outcomes and economic objectives are achieved for Australians, as individuals, for the community as a whole and for healthcare facilities within our systems of healthcare.

SHPA supports the amendments to entries in the Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels for flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid, naproxen and diclofenac, to highlight the increased risk of heart attack or stroke with prolonged use of these medicines, as well as liver damage with diclofenac.

SHPA believes that these advisory statements should be included in the Product Information and Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) for these medicines, and that all medicine boxes should contain a CMI leaflet.

To further promote the safe and effective use of medicines, SHPA believes that the print size of medicine label warnings needs to be adequate to ensure all consumers can read the warning. Additionally, these warnings should be displayed prominently such that it is intuitive for the consumer to read.