

Nicotinic acid modified release tablets (Niaspan[®]) **No. 93/04**
Merck Pharmaceuticals

Summary of Recommendation

13 April, 2004

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and ADTCs on its use in NHS Scotland. The recommendation is summarised as follows:

Advice: following a full submission.

Niaspan is not recommended for use within NHS Scotland for the treatment of primary hypercholesterolaemia and mixed dyslipidaemia.

Limited information comparing Niaspan with standard release nicotinic acid tablets showed similar efficacy in improving lipid parameters and a similar adverse-effect profile. However, there is a lack of information from prospective, double-blind trials comparing Niaspan with statins, fibrates and in combination with other lipid-lowering agents.

Professor David H Lawson
Chairman