Dear Professional Organization:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of important safety information for ELIQUIS (apixaban). ELIQUIS is an oral, reversible factor Xa inhibitor indicated to reduce the risk of stroke and systemic embolism in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation.

The FDA has determined that a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) is necessary to ensure that the benefits of ELIQUIS outweigh the potential risks in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation including:

- Increased risk of thrombotic events, when discontinuing ELIQUIS without an adequate alternative anticoagulant

Please read the recommendations in the US Prescribing Information (USPI) on how to convert patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation from ELIQUIS to warfarin or other anticoagulants.

The ELIQUIS® labeling includes a BOXED WARNING to highlight the safety issue of increased risk of thrombotic events following discontinuation of ELIQUIS®.

**WARNING: PREMATURE DISCONTINUATION OF ELIQUIS INCREASES THE RISK OF THROMBOTIC EVENTS**

Premature discontinuation of any oral anticoagulant, including ELIQUIS, increases the risk of thrombotic events. To reduce this risk, consider coverage with another anticoagulant if ELIQUIS is discontinued for a reason other than pathological bleeding or completion of a course of therapy.
Increased Risk of Thrombotic Events with Discontinuation of ELIQUIS

ELIQUIS has an apparent half-life of 12 hours during repeat dosing, therefore, the anticoagulant effect of ELIQUIS is present when the drug is taken and for at least a day after discontinuation. Discontinuing ELIQUIS in the absence of adequate alternative anticoagulation increases the risk of thrombotic events. An increased rate of stroke was observed during the transition from ELIQUIS to warfarin in clinical trials in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. If ELIQUIS must be discontinued for a reason other than pathological bleeding, consider coverage with another anticoagulant.

Patient Counseling

Advise patients to take ELIQUIS only as directed and not to discontinue ELIQUIS without first speaking to you.

Medication Guide

The Medication Guide contains information to support patient counseling regarding the risks and benefits of treatment with ELIQUIS. Additional copies of the ELIQUIS Medication Guide may be obtained from:

- Bristol-Myers Squibb toll-free line at 1-855-354-7847
- the ELIQUIS REMS website at http://www.ELIQUISREMS.com

Reporting Adverse Events

To report all suspected adverse events associated with the use of ELIQUIS, please contact:

- Bristol-Myers Squibb at 1-800-721-5072 and/or
- FDA Medwatch Program at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

For more information regarding ELIQUIS, please contact the Medical Information department at 1-800-321-1335 or visit the website at www.ELIQUIS.com.

This letter is not intended as a comprehensive description of risks associated with the use of ELIQUIS. Please read the accompanying USPI, including Medication Guide, for a complete description of these risks.

Sincerely,

[Click here to enter names of signatories]

Enclosure: ELIQUIS USPI with Medication Guide

[BMS Corporate logo] [Pfizer Inc logo]

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