[Practice name]

[Address]

[Tel]

[Fax]

[Email]

[Date]

[Title/Initial/Surname]

[Patient Address Block]

Dear [Title] [Surname]

At ……… Surgery we take patient safety very seriously. We follow the latest advances in medical research and continually update and review our clinical practice to ensure patient care is of the highest standard.

Recently, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency asked doctors to alert patients about the risk of breathing difficulties with high doses of Pregabalin (Lyrica).

Especially patients:

* over 65 years,
* with compromised respiratory problems e.g. Asthma or COPD,
* with poor kidney function,
* with neurological disease,
* and those also taking opioid medication.

All may need to lower their pregabalin dose to reduce the risk of this side effect..

Our records suggest that you are being prescribed high dose Pregabalin (300mg daily or more) (please tell us if that’s incorrect) and because we don't want our patients put at risk, please book a routine face to face or telephone appointment with our practice Pharmacist before your next medication repeat is due and we’ll work together towards a safer, more effective treatment plan.

Important Actions for Patients:

* Please let your doctor know if you notice new or increased trouble breathing or you experience shallow breathing after taking pregabalin; a noticeable change in breathing might be associated with sleepiness.
* Read the leaflet that comes with your medicine and talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are worried about the other prescribed medicines you are taking with pregabalin,
* It is also very important to avoid drinking alcohol during pregabalin treatment.

Yours sincerely

Dr XXX