



Friday Five

July 13, 2018

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Valsartan - Health Canada Recall

On July 9, 2018, Health Canada issued a recall advisory for several products containing **valsartan**. The manufacturer of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) , Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceuticals, has detected an impurity, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), which is a potential human carcinogen. To date, valsartan products from five drug companies are affected.

Please see the [Health Canada Recall Advisory](#) for details on the products affected and the specific lot numbers recalled. Please ensure that your pharmacy removes the affected products from pharmacy inventory and contacts any patients that may be affected.

According to Manitoba Health, over 10,000 patient in Manitoba have been prescribed valsartan, and over 90% of these patients are affected by this recall. Collaboration among pharmacists and prescribers will be necessary to change these . Patients are advised to keep taking their valsartan, unless they have been told to stop by their prescribers or pharmacists.

Professional Development Opportunities

Opioid Replacement Therapy 101 Introduction to Clinical Practice

[September 13 & 14, 2018](#)
[November 22 & 23, 2018](#)

Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg Presents:

[The 22nd Annual Bug Day](#)

October 16, 2018

Online Programs:

[Oral-Systemic Health Education for Non-Dental Healthcare Providers](#)

[Ordering Lab Tests for Manitoba Pharmacists](#)

Visit www.cphm.ca for more information on [Expanded Scope of Practice](#) training.

The notice from Manitoba Health with more details on the recall can be found [here](#).

On July 13, 2018, Council passed the following motion in order to enable Extended Practice Pharmacists working in the primary care setting in Manitoba to best assist healthcare teams with this recall:

That a temporary exemption to Section 2.4 of the Prescription Practice Direction be granted, to permit Extended Practice Pharmacists working in the Primary Care setting to prescribe an appropriate alternative to valsartan for patients they have not seen and assessed in-person. Extended Practice Pharmacists are required to comply with all other prescribing requirements outlines in the legislation and Prescribing Practice Direction. This temporary exemption will expire on August 10, 2018.

Sale of Point of Care Urine Drug Test Kits

Health Canada considers point-of-care test kits for drug metabolites to be a medical device that must be licensed by Health Canada before they can be sold in Canada. [Health Canada's Medical Devices database](#) can be searched to confirm if a product is approved by Health Canada. Health Canada also has an information page on [Medical Test Kits for Home Use](#).

It is important to ensure urine drug test kits designed for patient use are approved and listed on [Health Canada's Medical Device database](#), before offering for sale in a pharmacy in Manitoba. The College recommends that urine drug test kits for patient use be sold from behind the pharmacy counter to enable pharmacists to provide information on the proper use of the test kit, the possible limitations if the product is not stored or used correctly, and the potential need for consultation with a healthcare professional.

Canada's National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacy

The Safety IQ volunteer community pharmacies are

[Self-Limiting Conditions Independent Study Program](#)

Visit www.cphm.ca for more information on [Expanded Scope of Practice](#) training.

All PD opportunities are listed on the College website under

[Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities](#)

playing an important role in contributing anonymous incident data to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) national repository. The June 27, 2018, issue of the [ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin](#) included an article – Canada’s National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies. The article outlined how several Canadian provinces, including Safety IQ in Manitoba, are contributing to this national repository for continuous improvement.

ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins are designed to disseminate timely, targeted information to healthcare professionals to reduce the risk of medication incidents. The bulletins share de-identified information ISMP Canada receives about medication incidents to suggest medication system improvement strategies for enhancing patient safety. You can subscribe to the ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin at the following [link](#).

ISMP Canada's consumer-focused website, www.SafeMedicationUse.ca, is part of the Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System ([CMIRPS](#)), a Canadian initiative to prevent harmful medication incidents. [SafeMedicationUse.ca](http://www.SafeMedicationUse.ca) also publishes ten medication safety bulletins yearly specifically for patients. If you wish to sign up for the SafeMedicationUse Newsletter or wish to make your patients aware of this valuable information, sign up at the following [link](#).

Safe Storage and Disposal of Medications - Summary of a Safety Bulletin from ISMP Canada

It's important to educate the public on the importance of safe storage and disposal of medications. Improper storage and disposal of medications have resulted in medication errors, accidental poisonings, inappropriate use, and diversion.

ISMP Canada, with the support of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) and partners, has developed key messages to guide both clinicians and patients on the safe storage and disposal of medications in the community.

Safe Storage

Medications, including those in compliance packaging, should be stored out of sight and out of reach of children. The ideal medication storage location provides easy accessibility for the intended user while preventing or discouraging inappropriate access and accidental ingestion by anyone else, especially children.

Safe Disposal

Patients and their caregivers may need to dispose of prescription and non-prescription medications for various reasons, such as failure to complete a course of therapy; change in treatment, dose, or clinical condition; or product expiry. The ideal method of medication disposal should be easy to perform, should minimize risk for diversion, should not impose a financial burden, and should be environmentally sound. Taking unused medications to a community pharmacy for proper disposal meets all of these criteria and is therefore recommended.

The website of the [Health Products Stewardship Association](#) (HPSA) provides information about locations and processes for safe medication disposal in every Canadian province.

Resources for Patients and Families

[Safe Storage and Disposal Information Card](#)

[Don't Throw it Out - Bookmark](#)

[Take it Back Card – Medications Return Program](#)

College of Pharmacists of Manitoba

200 Taché Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2H 1A7

Phone: 204.233.1411

www.cphm.ca

The *Friday Five* e-bulletin is published by the **College of Pharmacists of Manitoba** and is forwarded to every licenced pharmacist and pharmacy owner in the Province of Manitoba. Decisions of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba regarding all matters such as regulations, drug-related incidents, etc., are published in the *Friday Five*. The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba therefore assumes that all pharmacists and pharmacy owners are aware of these matters.

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