

Drug Recalls and Drug Safety Update

Listed below are drug safety updates and drug recalls that impact Molina Healthcare members

1. Propoxyphene products

This popular pain medication, originally marketed in 1976, was evaluated for cardiac safety and produced prolonged PR interval, widened QRS complex and prolonged QT intervals. In 2010, the FDA determined the overall balance of risk and benefit was not favorable and asked the brand maker to remove the medication from the market. At the same time, they asked the generic manufacturers to voluntarily remove their product also. NOTE: If you would like to obtain a copy of Molina members receiving propoxyphene, please fax a request with your full name and address to: 1-248-925-1771 so we can mail information to you.

2. Meridia for treatment of obesity

Abbott agreed to voluntarily withdraw Meridia due to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. Note: Members impacted by this recall and their prescribers were notified. Treatment of obesity is approved on a case-by-case basis. A Prior Authorization request should include height, weight, and BMI for consideration.

3. Epogen – 1 ml and 2 ml single dose vials

Epogen in 1 ml and 2 ml single dose vials were recalled on September 22, 2010. Amgen issued a recall due to the presence of extremely thin glass flakes that are difficult to see. NOTE: Molina Healthcare members impacted by this recall and their prescribers were notified by mail.

4. Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Inhalers – Tilade, Alupent and Azmacort, Intal, Aerobid

In 2010, the FDA announced that metered dose inhalers will be gradually removed from the market. These inhalers contain chlorofluorocarbons used as propellants. While CFCs are safe to breathe in, they have been found to cause damage to the ozone layer. Alternative medications that do not contain CFCs are available. NOTE: Members impacted by this recall and their prescribers were notified by mail. Formulary alternatives are:

Formulary Beta Agonists	ProAir
Formulary Inhaled Corticosteroids	QVAR