

# Talk About My Medicines Month

Dear Colleagues,

October, 2016

October 22, 2016

October is **Talk About My Medicines Month**. FDA has excellent resources to help promote drug safety. Check recent Consumer Updates:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm149195.htm>

Feel free to print copies or order from your local FDA public affairs office.



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National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

1. Take Medicine as Prescribed—with Input from Your Health Care Provider
2. Keep a Medication List
3. Be Aware of Potential Drug Interactions and Side Effects
4. Review Medications with Your Health Care Provider

See the article on [the FDA's Consumer Updates page](#), which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products.

There are many patients with a serious or life-threatening medical condition that does not have an FDA-approved therapy. One option may be to obtain access to an unapproved investigational drug. To do this, a physician submits an application to the FDA requesting to use an investigational drug in the treatment of their patient. This is called expanded access. [More information](#)



There isn't enough science to show that OTC antibacterial soaps are better at preventing illness than washing with plain soap and water. The benefits of using antibacterial hand soap haven't been proven. Wide use of these products over a long time has raised the question of potential negative effects. With the exception of three ingredients still under study, all products that use the other 19 active ingredients need to change their formulas. Manufacturers have one year to comply with the rule. This rule doesn't apply to hand sanitizers. <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm378393.htm>

**Opioid Addiction** - Opioid and RX drug abuse is sweeping the country. To raise awareness and educate young people on the dangers of addiction, the FBI and DEA have released "Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict," a compilation of heart-wrenching stories of addicts and their families. <https://www.dea.gov/index.shtml>

**WARNING** Potential dangers of combined use of opioids benzodiazepines: <http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/informationbydrugclass/ucm518110.htm>

**U.S. Surgeon General Call to End Opioid Crisis:**  
[www.TurnTheTideRx.org/join](http://www.TurnTheTideRx.org/join) & <http://turnthetiderx.org/treatment/#>

**FDA Opioid Information and Action Plan:**  
<http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/informationbydrugclass/ucm337066.htm>

Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict

**CHASING THE DRAGON**

THE LIFE OF AN OPIATE ADDICT



Play Video

**FDA Naloxone App Competition** - A contest focused on developing innovative technologies to combat the rising epidemic of opioid overdose. Contestants are encouraged to create a mobile phone app to connect opioid users experiencing an overdose with nearby carriers of naloxone – the RX antidote for an opioid overdose.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm520945.htm>

# Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired  
medication for safe disposal  
Saturday, October 22nd,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)  
or call 800-882-9539  
for a collection  
site near you



unused  
Rx

For more  
information,  
please visit  
[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)