

TALK ABOUT PRESCRIPTIONS MONTH

Dear Colleague,

October, 2013

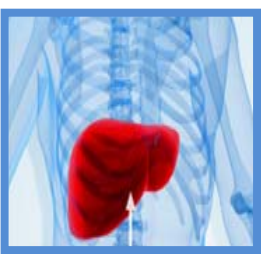
“TALK ABOUT PRESCRIPTIONS MONTH” is celebrated in October. FDA has excellent drug safety publications to help you with your outreach.

Publications can be ordered through the District Office (contact below) or <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm297002.htm>

This year’s theme is to “Be Medicine Smart” – adhering to medicine schedules, taking medicine as directed and keeping a list are all important drug safety messages.

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Acetaminophen is an active ingredient in hundreds of over-the-counter and prescription medicines. It relieves pain and fever and is often combined with other active ingredients in medicines that treat allergy, cough, colds, flu, and sleeplessness. In prescription medicines, acetaminophen is found with other active ingredients to treat moderate to severe pain.



Taking too much acetaminophen can be harmful. It can damage the liver. Severe liver damage may occur and may lead to death if you take:

- More acetaminophen than directed
- More than one medicine containing acetaminophen
- Acetaminophen while drinking 3 or more alcoholic drinks every day.

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/ucm165107.htm>

Two ways to identify an unknown pill



Quick Search
 (rapid identification, sort pills by color, shape, etc.)



Advanced Search
 (includes searching by drug name, inactive ingredients, and more)

New tool from the NIH National Library of Medicine: Pillbox enables rapid identification of unknown solid-dosage medications (tablets/capsules) based on physical characteristics and high-resolution images. Once a medication is identified, Pillbox provides links to drug information and drug labels. See: <http://rpillbox.nlm.nih.gov/index.html>

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal here



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

October 26 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 To find a location site check: at: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html



The FDA Patient Network was designed to help patients and their advocates and health professionals connect with FDA. Through the network, FDA shares information, seeks recruits to help FDA make decisions and helps people connect to FDA through meetings, email, webinars, and opportunities to comment on FDA regulations.

<http://www.patientnetwork.fda.gov>



Treat colds and flu with care. Talk to your doctor.

Avoid antibiotics unless they are clearly needed. **Do not take** antibiotics without the advice of a doctor. Finish the full course of antibiotics, even if symptoms disappear. **Do not save** antibiotics for the next time you are sick. When visiting your doctor do not demand antibiotics. Antibiotics DO NOT treat viral illnesses like colds, flu and most sore throats.



The ¡Nunca Más! Novela Health Series educates Hispanic women about the importance of safe medication use. It consists of four video novelas and free health materials with key messages about medication safety. <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ByAudience/ForWomen/ucm269846.htm>