



November 19, 2010

Manufacturer initiates voluntary withdrawal of propoxyphene-containing products (Darvon and Darvocet)

Earlier today the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued notice of a market withdrawal of all propoxyphene-containing products (Darvon and Darvocet) from the U.S. market due to concerns about the risk of potentially serious or even fatal heart rhythm abnormalities. Below is more information about this withdrawal.

- **Product and strengths:** all propoxyphene containing products, e.g. Darvon and Darvocet all strengths
- **Indication:** pain relief
- **Manufacturer:** Xanodyne, various
- **Date of action:** November 19
- **Type of action:** voluntary market withdrawal
- **Reason for action:** new clinical data shows these products put patients at risk of potentially serious or even fatal heart rhythm abnormalities
- **Affected lot numbers:** All
- **Notification:** FDA notice attached

Implications to Medco and clients

Medco is taking the following action in response to this recall:

- Initiating a mailing to all patients with a six-month history of propoxyphene medications on file at the Medco Pharmacy. The letters will include information about the withdrawal, the FDA's warnings, the need for patients to contact their physician to discuss alternatives, the danger of stopping this medication abruptly, Medco's plan to stop dispensing this medication, and contacts for questions.
- Distributing a question and answer document to customer service representatives and pharmacists to answer any customer inquiries
- Posting Web messaging to the www.medco.com homepage
- Assessing what alternatives to this product would be clinically appropriate

Retail impact

- Medco has initiated messaging to inform pharmacists of this withdrawal at the point of service.
- Retail patients will be managed by retail pharmacies per their professional practices

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact your Medco Account Management Team.