

The Truth about Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) in cough & cold medicines



FDA Statement

On 6 November 2000 the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a public health advisory statement notifying that it was taking steps to remove phenylpropanolamine (PPA) from all pharmaceutical products and has requested that all pharmaceutical companies discontinue marketing products containing PPA.

The statement followed advice from the FDA's Non-prescription Drugs Advisory Committee that there is an association between phenylpropanolamine and haemorrhagic stroke and that phenylpropanolamine not be considered safe for over-the-counter use. The FDA advised that the risk of haemorrhagic stroke was 'very low' but there were significant concerns because of the seriousness of a stroke and the inability to predict who was at risk.

Since the statement was released, the information has been widely circulated in the public domain via the internet and email.

The email generally includes a list of effected products. Most familiar to Australian & New Zealand consumers are the brands Dimetapp and Robitussin. From the beginning, this information has been incorrect locally and is now also out of date for the US market.

Is PPA in Dimetapp or Robitussin?

NO. Dimetapp or Robitussin do not contain the active ingredient phenylpropanolamine (PPA). While some ingredients may sound similar, such as phenylephrine, they are not the same active ingredient. No Wyeth products contain PPA.

Are there any products available with PPA in them?

NO. There are currently no OTC cough & cold products authorised for supply in Australia and no products legally available for sale in New Zealand as OTC cough & cold products.

Some products, other than Wyeth products, purchased overseas or online from overseas vendors may contain PPA. So your customers should check the labels carefully before purchasing them.

For further information:



wchcorpaff@pfizer.com

1800 555 057 (Australian Residents)

0800 447 400 (New Zealand Residents)

AUSTRALIA

Therapeutics Goods Administration

<http://www.tga.gov.au/docs/html/ppa.htm>



PFIZER CONSUMER HEALTHCARE PTY LTD

Unit 21B, 1 Maitland Pl,
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Australia

PFIZER PTY LTD

4 Normanby Road
Mt Eden
Auckland
New Zealand

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