FDA AGENCY REPORT – JUNE 2010

Here is a summary of recent product safety, product approvals, announcements and resources to keep you informed about FDA issues. A brief summary of each issue and a web link to detailed information on the FDA website is included.

PRODUCT SAFETY:

Orlistat (marketed as Alli and Xenical): Labeling Change (May 26)
FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients that it has approved a revised label for Xenical to include new safety information about cases of severe liver injury that have been reported rarely with the use of this medication. The agency is also adding a new warning about rare reports of severe liver injury to the OTC Drug Facts label for Alli.

Ultram (tramadol hydrochloride), Ultracet (tramadol hydrochloride/acetaminophen): Label Change (May 25)
Ortho-McNeil-Janssen and FDA notified healthcare professionals of changes to the Warnings section of the prescribing information for tramadol, a centrally acting synthetic opioid analgesic indicated for the management of moderate to moderately severe chronic pain. The strengthened Warnings information emphasizes the risk of suicide for patients who are addiction-prone, taking tranquilizers or antidepressant drugs and also warns of the risk of overdosage.

Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI): Class Labeling Change (May 25)
FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients of revisions to the prescription and over-the-counter [OTC] labels for proton pump inhibitors, which work by reducing the amount of acid in the stomach, to include new safety information about a possible increased risk of fractures of the hip, wrist, and spine with the use of these medications. The new safety information is based on FDA's review of several epidemiological studies that found those at greatest risk for these fractures received high doses of proton pump inhibitors or used them for one year or more.

Updated Questions and Answers for Healthcare Professionals and the Public: Use an Approved Pancreatic Enzyme Product (PEP) (May 24)
This set of Questions and Answers was originally posted on April 12, 2010. It is being updated to provide additional information to healthcare professionals and the public about the safe use of approved pancreatic enzyme products.

Sagent Pharmaceuticals Initiates a Nationwide Voluntary Recall of All Lots of Metronidazole Injection, USP 500 mg/100 mL (May 17)
Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced the voluntary nationwide recall of all lots of metronidazole injection, USP 500mg / 100mL (NDC number 25021-131-82) manufactured by Claris Lifesciences and distributed by Sagent. The lot numbers being recalled are: A090742, A090743, A090744, A090745, A090746, A090769, A090770, A090771, A090772, A090773, A090774, A090775, A090776, A090968, A091014, A000013, A000016 and A000019, which were distributed to hospitals, wholesalers and distributors nationwide from February through May 2010. Metronidazole injection, USP

is an intravenous antimicrobial product used to treat infections and is supplied in a single dose plastic container.

Voluntary Recall of HYLENEX Initiated (May 17)
Baxter International Inc. (NYSE:BAX) announced today that a voluntary recall of all manufactured lots of HYLENEX recombinant (hyaluronidase human injection) has been initiated as a precautionary measure due to instances of particulate matter observed in a limited number of HYLENEX vials during routine stability testing. Baxter is working with the product's NDA-holder, Halozyme Therapeutics, to investigate the root cause of the issue and appropriately address the situation. HYLENEX recombinant is a tissue permeability modifier indicated as an adjuvant in subcutaneous fluid administration for achieving hydration; to increase the dispersion and absorption of other injected drugs; and in subcutaneous urography for improving resorption of radiopaque agents.

Rotarix Vaccine: Update to Clinicians and Public Health Professionals (May 16)
FDA has determined it is appropriate for clinicians and health care professionals to resume the use of Rotarix and to continue the use of RotaTeq. Based on a careful evaluation of laboratory results from the manufacturers and its own laboratories, a thorough review of the scientific literature, and input from scientific and public health experts, the agency is revising its recommendation to temporarily suspend use of the Rotarix vaccine. FDA has also determined that RotaTeq vaccine should remain in use.

GE Healthcare Aisys and Avance Anesthesia Systems: Recall (May 13)
GE and FDA notified healthcare professionals of a Class I Recall of specific lots of the Aisys and Avance Anesthesia Systems. The control board wiring harnesses have a defect which can cause the machine to unexpectedly shut down, terminating ventilation, anesthetic delivery, and potentially patient monitoring.

Serious Side Effects from Swallowing Topical Benadryl Product (May 12)
FDA is warning consumers about potentially serious side effects from mistakenly swallowing Benadryl Extra Strength Itch Stopping Gel, an over-the-counter (OTC) product that should only be used on the skin. FDA has received reports of serious side effects in people who have mistakenly swallowed the product. Some OTC Benadryl products are intended to be swallowed. However, Benadryl Extra Strength Itch Stopping Gel is only safe and effective when used, as directed, on the skin. People swallowing the gel can ingest a dangerous amount of the active ingredient, diphenhydramine. Large doses of diphenhydramine can result in serious side effects such as unconsciousness, hallucinations, and confusion.

Teleflex Medical Announces Worldwide Voluntary Recall of Teleflex Medical AQUA+FLEX Hygroscopic Condenser Humidifier (Catalog Number 1570) (May 6)
Teleflex Medical has announced a worldwide voluntary recall initiated on March 19, 2010, affecting certain lot numbers of the Teleflex Medical AQUA+FLEX Hygroscopic Condenser Humidifier (HCH) (catalog number 1570), a passive humidifier indicated for use to effectively warm and humidify inspired gas during mechanical ventilation. The company received product complaints that the 22cm connector on the flex tube may not

fit securely within the endotracheal tube (ET) connector. This may result in the product becoming disconnected from the patient ET tube. Device failure is recognizable by the user as an alarm from the ventilator, oxygen sensor or other compatible device to which the AQUA+FLEX tubing is connected. No injuries have been reported to date. However, a disconnected tube in ventilator dependent patients without prompt response to the alarm could lead to serious injury or death.

Vivitrol (naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension): Medication Guide Required for Patients (May 4)
Alkermes and FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients of an update to the Warnings, Information for Patients, and Dosage and Administration sections of the Prescribing Information to strengthen language regarding the risk of injection site reactions based on postmarketing reports that had been received prior to June 2009.

Baxter Colleague Infusion Pumps: FDA Ordering Recall (May 4)
FDA notified healthcare professionals and consumers that it has ordered Baxter to recall and destroy all of its Colleague Volumetric Infusion Pumps (Colleague pumps) currently in use. This action is based on a longstanding failure to correct many serious problems with the pumps.

GnRH Agonists: Safety Review of Drug Class Used to Treat Prostate Cancer (May 3)
FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients of FDA's preliminary and ongoing review which suggests an increase in the risk of diabetes and certain cardiovascular diseases in men treated with GnRH agonists, drugs that suppress the production of testosterone, a hormone that is involved in the growth of prostate cancer.

Vita Breath Dietary Supplement (May 3)
FDA notified healthcare professionals, their patients, and consumers not to consume Vita Breath, a dietary supplement manufactured by American Herbal Lab and marketed at health fairs and on the Internet, because the product may contain hazardous levels of lead. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene analyzed a sample of Vita Breath and reported it contained 1,100 parts per million of lead. This level is more than 10,000 times higher than FDA’s maximum recommended level for lead in candy.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare Over-the-Counter Infants’ and Children’s Products: Recall (April 30)
McNeil Consumer Healthcare and FDA notified healthcare professionals of a voluntary recall of certain over-the-counter (OTC) Children’s and Infants’ liquid products manufactured in the United States, including Tylenol, Motrin, Zyrtec, and Benadryl products. Some of these products may not meet required quality standards. This recall is not being undertaken on the basis of adverse medical events.

Cardiac Science Automated External Defibrillators - Powerheart, Cardiovive, NK, Responder models: Class I Recall (Apr 27)
FDA’s review of updated software indicates that it detects some but not all electrical component defects.

Covidien Initiates Voluntary Recall of Certain Shiley™ Tracheostomy Tubes (Apr 24)
Recall due to the product's cuff not holding air as a result of leaks in the pilot balloon inflation assembly.

LIFEPAK 15 Monitor/Defibrillator by Physio-Control Inc. (Apr 22)
Class I Recall issued because of the potential for the device to expectedly power off and/or power on.

Propylthiouracil (Apr 21)
FDA added a Boxed Warning to the label to include information about reports of severe liver injury and acute liver failure, some of which have been fatal, in adult and pediatric patients.

Expansion of Nationwide Voluntary Recall of Specific Lots of Sexual Enhancement Products Marketed as Dietary Supplements (April 12)
Atlas Operations, Inc. announced a voluntary nationwide recall of the company's dietary supplements for sexual enhancement to include Stamin It, Erectzia, and Vigor 100. These products were sold as dietary supplements throughout the United States. Atlas Operations, Inc. is conducting a voluntary recall after being informed by FDA that lab analyses found that the products to contain Sulfoaildenafil, an analogue of Sildenafil, an FDA-approved drug used in the treatment of male Erectile Dysfunction (ED), making these products unapproved new drugs.

Teleflex Arrow IV Tubing Sets, Accessories, and Embolectomy Catheters: Recall (Apr 8)
Recall has been classified as Class I. Product sterility cannot be guaranteed. Testing revealed pin holes in some of the pouches in which the products are packaged.

Camolyn eye drops, Fisiolin nasal drops: Voluntary recall due to non-sterility (Apr 7)
Lack of sterile product has the potential to cause infections.

Heparin: Change in Reference Standard (Apr 7)
New studies reinforce FDA's previous recommendation for healthcare professionals to exercise clinical judgment in determining the dose of heparin for a patient.

For more product safety information please visit our MedWatch website.

PRODUCT APPROVALS:

FDA Approves New Treatment for Late-Onset Pompe Disease (May 25)
FDA approved Lumizyme (alglucosidase alfa) for patients ages 8 years and older with late-onset (non-infantile) Pompe disease, a rare genetic disorder. Pompe disease occurs in an estimated 1 in every 40,000 to 300,000 births. Its primary symptom is heart and skeletal muscle weakness, progressing to respiratory weakness and death from respiratory failure.

Combination Product Oral Contraceptive (May 6)
FDA approved Natazia, a combination hormonal tablet for use as an oral contraceptive. Natazia contains two female hormones, an estrogen (estradiol valerate) and a progestin (dienogest), and is the first four-phasic oral contraceptive marketed in the United States. Four-phasic refers to the doses of progestin and estrogen varying at four times throughout each 28-day treatment cycle.

Cellular Immunotherapy for Men with Advanced Prostate Cancer (April 29)
FDA approved Provenge (sipuleucel-T), a new therapy for certain men with advanced prostate cancer that uses their own immune system to fight the disease. Provenge is indicated for the treatment of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic prostate cancer that has spread to other parts of the body and is resistant to standard hormone treatment.

FDA Approves New Device for Adults with Severe and Persistent Asthma (Apr 27)
FDA approved the first medical device that uses radiofrequency energy to treat severe and persistent asthma in certain adults.

FDA Approves Pancreatic Enzyme Product, Pancreaze (Apr 12)
FDA approved Pancreaze Delayed Release Capsules, a pancreatic enzyme product (PEP). It is the third such product to receive FDA approval. Pancreatic enzyme products improve food digestion in patients whose bodies do not produce enough

FDA Approves First Generic Versions of Two Drugs for the Treatment of Hypertension (Apr 6)
FDA approved the first generic versions of two drugs used for the treatment of hypertension. Losartan potassium tablets and losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide tablets (a combination drug) are the generic equivalents of Cozaar and Hyzaar tablets, respectively.

FDA Approves New Formulation for OxyContin (Apr 5)
FDA approved a new formulation of the controlled-release drug OxyContin that has been designed to help discourage misuse and abuse of the medication.

FDA Approves First Biodegradable Sealant Patch for Cardiovascular Surgery (Apr 5)
FDA approved TachoSil, the first absorbable fibrin sealant patch for use in cardiovascular surgery to prevent mild and moderate bleeding from small blood vessels, when standard surgical techniques are ineffective or impractical.

For more information on drug approvals, please visit Drugs@FDA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Statement to Healthcare Professionals: Restricted Availability of Thyrogen (May 24)

Healthcare professionals should be aware that the supply of Thyrogen (recombinant thyroid stimulating hormone [TSH]), a drug used in the treatment and follow-up diagnosis of thyroid cancer, will be temporarily limited.

On May 24, 2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Genzyme entered into a legal settlement (consent decree) that is designed to permit Genzyme to produce, for the United States market, enough Thyrogen to meet the needs of patients for whom FDA considers the drug to be medically necessary. Accordingly, the consent decree restricts Genzyme's U.S. distribution of Thyrogen to customers (meaning entities that purchase Thyrogen kits directly from Genzyme, such as distributors and wholesalers) who sign a Certificate of Procedures Related to Medical Necessity. This Certificate notes the customer's agreement to distribute the product with a Dear Healthcare Provider Letter, which describes the patients for whom FDA considers Thyrogen to be medically necessary. This restriction will remain in place until Genzyme corrects manufacturing issues at their Allston Landing facility, where the fill/finish manufacturing operations for Thyrogen are performed, or transfers fill/finish manufacturing operations for Thyrogen to other manufacturing facilities operating in compliance with FDA regulations.

FDA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Launch Electronic Safety Reporting Portal (May 24)
FDA and NIH launched a new Web site that, when fully developed, will provide a mechanism for the reporting of pre- and post-market safety data to the federal government. Currently the Web site can be used to report safety problems related to foods, including animal feed, and animal drugs, as well as adverse events occurring on human gene transfer trials. Consumers can also use the site to report problems with pet foods and pet treats. The new site, called the Safety Reporting Portal (SRP), provides greater and easier access to online reporting.

FDA Clears First 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus Test Previously Approved for Emergency-Use Only (May 24)
FDA announced it has cleared the Simplexa Influenza A H1N1 (2009), a test for the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus in patients with signs and symptoms of respiratory infection. Until this clearance, tests for 2009 H1N1 Influenza were only available through an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), which allows the FDA, based on the evaluation of available data, to authorize the use of unapproved or uncleared medical products or unapproved or uncleared uses of approved or cleared medical products, during the time a declaration of emergency is in effect.

FDA Transparency Initiative: Draft Proposals (May 19)
FDA released a draft report on the public disclosure policies of FDA. The goal is to facilitate transparency that promotes public health and innovation.
The report proposes for public comment 21 specific draft proposals. These draft proposals reflect close review of more than 1,500 public comments and extensive consideration and discussion within FDA.

‘Bad Ad Program’ to Help Health Care Providers Detect, Report Misleading Drug Ads (May 11)
FDA launched a program designed to educate health care providers about their role in ensuring that prescription drug advertising and promotion is truthful, and not misleading. The Bad Ad Program is an FDA-sponsored educational outreach effort administered by the agency’s Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC), in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. “The Bad Ad Program will help health care providers recognize misleading prescription drug promotion and provide them with an easy way to report this activity to the agency,” said Thomas Abrams, director of DDMAC.

Propofol Drug Shortage (Apr 23)

FDA is aware that recent shortages of propofol injection—a quick acting sedative-hypnotic used for the induction and maintenance of anesthesia or sedation—have resulted in significant concerns for some healthcare professionals in regard to patient care.

Initiative to Reduce Infusion Pump Risks (Apr 23)
FDA announced a new initiative to address safety problems associated with external infusion pumps, which are devices that deliver fluids, including nutrients and medications, into a patient’s body in a controlled manner.

Draft Revised Guidance on Transparency and Advisory Committees (Apr 21)
FDA announced draft guidance that would expand transparency and disclosure when the agency grants a conflict of interest waiver to permit an individual’s participation at an FDA advisory committee meeting.

FDA Launches Medical Device and Radiation-Emitting Product Transparency Web site (Apr 19)
FDA launched the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) Transparency Web site today as part of the agency’s transparency initiative. The site will provide information about medical device and radiation-emitting product regulatory processes and decisions, and summaries of data that provide the rationale for agency actions.

Asthma and COPD Inhalers That Contain Ozone-depleting CFCs to be Phased Out; Alternative Treatments Available (Apr 13)
FDA announced, in accordance with longstanding U.S. obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, seven metered-dose inhalers (MDI) used to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) will be gradually removed from the U.S. marketplace. These inhalers contain ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are propellants that move medication out of the inhaler and into the lungs of patients. Alternative medications that do not contain CFCs are available.

FDA Patient Safety News Video Broadcasts (Apr 8)
April 2010 video news show for healthcare professionals, covering safety alerts, recalls, product approvals, and important tips on protecting patients.

FDA MedWatch Mobile Text Messaging
The FDA recently launched a new MedWatch Safety Information mobile text message program. The content of the text messages will consist of alerts that provide timely new safety information on human drugs, medical devices, and related safety topics. The messages contain actionable information that may impact both treatment and diagnostic choices for healthcare professional and patient. To subscribe to the pilot, text FDA to 87000. Subscribers can expect to receive approximately three to five text messages a week during the six-month pilot. Standard text messaging rates will apply.

RESOURCES:

FDA Drug Info Rounds
A series of training videos for practicing clinical and community pharmacists.

FDA Patient Safety News
A video news show for health professionals

FDA Basics
Each month, different Centers and Offices at FDA will host an online session where the public can ask questions to senior FDA officials about a specific topic or just listen in to learn more about FDA.

Access to Investigational Drugs – Webinar Materials
Expanded access, sometimes called "compassionate use," is the use of an investigational drug outside of a clinical trial to treat a patient with a serious or immediately life-threatening disease or condition who has no comparable or satisfactory alternative treatment options.

Primer on Foodborne Illness

A primer is available on food borne illnesses that provides practical and concise information on the diagnosis, treatment, and reporting of food borne illnesses. It was developed collaboratively by the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association-American Nurse Foundation, CDC, the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Nutrition, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Copies available free by email request to: CFSANPublicationRe@fda.hhs.gov.

Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) Webinar
A Webinar has been developed by FDA in preparation for PDUFA V Reauthorization. The Webinar provides a background of the program including PDUFA's impact on public health, a primer on drug development and FDA's performance commitments as part of PDUFA, and an overview of FDA's experience to date in PDUFA IV.

Medicines in My Home -An Interactive Home
This educational program is designed to help consumers from adolescence to adulthood understand and use the ***Drug Facts*** label to choose over-the-counter medicines and use them safely.

Articles

Interphone Research Study (May 18)
Is there a connection between radiofrequency (RF) and certain health problems? The results of most studies conducted to date say no. In addition, attempts to replicate and confirm the few studies that have shown a connection have failed. The scientific community at large therefore believes that the weight of scientific evidence does not show an association between exposure to radiofrequency (RF) from cell phones and adverse health outcomes. Still the scientific community has supported additional research to address gaps in knowledge. Some of these studies are described here.

Looking Good: Safe Use and Care of Contact Lenses (May 14)
Approximately 30 million U.S. contact lens wearers use a variety of lens care products available in most pharmacies. Contact lenses may provide better vision and more freedom of movement for some users, but improper care and cleansing of these products can cause serious eye infections.