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ULM COLLEGE OF PHARMACY Drug Information Center



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Greetings from the Drug Information Center at the University of Louisiana at Monroe College of Pharmacy!

We hope you find this newsletter helpful in staying well-informed.

Please contact us and let us assist you with any drug information needs, such as full-text article retrieval. In this issue, [find out more about the services the DIC has to offer.](#)

In this issue...

FDA MedWatch and Other Safety Alerts News Items

Drug Approvals
New Guidelines

FDA MedWatch and Other Safety Alerts

Access to full-text articles may require subscription. Contact the Drug Information Center for literature retrieval assistance.

Lack of Sterility Forces Voluntary Recall

All sterile products originating from clinical specialties compounding have been recalled after sterility issues arise – second recall in one week.
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Recall on Avastin Unit Dose Syringes

Clinical Specialties' products have been linked to potentially serious eye infections.
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Potential Mold Contamination Causes Med Prep Consulting Inc. Product Recall

All compounded products originating from Med Prep Consulting Inc. have been recalled after contamination discovered.
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Several Type 2 Diabetes Medications Linked to Pancreatitis and Pancreatic Cancer

Reports have indicated that incretin mimetic drugs (ie. Byetta, Januvia, Victoza, etc.) may increase the risk of pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer.
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Night Bullet, Dietary Supplement, Recalled

Sildenafil analogues, undeclared ingredients, have been found in Green Planet, Inc.'s male enhancement supplement.
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Fatal Heart Rhythms Linked to Azithromycin

FDA warns that the popular antibiotic azithromycin (Zithromax) may be linked to potentially irregular heart rhythms.
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Undeclared Ingredient Leads To Weight Loss Supplement Recall

Olaax Corp's MaxiLoss Weight Advanced softgels have been recalled due to containing the undeclared ingredient sibutramine.
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Omontys (Peginesatide) Recall

Serious hypersensitivity reactions, including death, have been associated with first dose.
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Gilead's Vistide Recall

The presence of particulates have been detected in Vistide (cidofovir injection).
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Rugby Natural Iron Supplement Recall

Ferrous sulfate 325 mg tablets, labeled as Rugby Natural Iron Supplement has been recalled; bottle may contain meclizine HCl 25 mg tablets.
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News Items

Study Shows Ambien Improves Memory

A new study suggests that taking Ambien can move memories and information from short term to long term storage.
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Study Reports Niacin Has Zero Benefits, May Harm

The FDA issued the strongest possible warning to physicians to avoid prescribing niacin to children after surgery to remove tonsils, adenoids or both.
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[View Study](#)

Child Cured of HIV

Two years later, a child shows no signs of HIV after administration of three anti-retrovirals post-birth.
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CRE Infections on the Rise

A report showing strains of carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) has prompted the CDC to sound the alarm.
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FDA to Examine Calcitonin-Salmon Use and Cancer Risks

A review has found a small increase in the potential risk of cancer after long-term use of calcitonin-containing drugs.
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Study Suggests Pregnant Women Should Avoid Vitamin D Supplements:

New research has shown that increased vitamin D intake during pregnancy causes an increase in food allergies for the child.
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Drug Overdose Deaths on the Rise

Overdose fatalities have increased over the past eleven years, according to CDC letter in JAMA.
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FDA Rejects Novo's Long-Acting Insulin

Approval of the product in the future is likely, but only after more extensive testing related to heart risks have been completed.
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Codeine Use in Children After Tonsillectomy May Be Fatal

The FDA issued the strongest possible warning to physicians to avoid prescribing codeine to children after surgery to remove tonsils, adenoids or both.
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Nearly One-Third of Chemotherapy Drugs Are Used "Off-Label"

In 2010 4.5 billion dollars was spent on "off-label" use of chemotherapy drugs.
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Combination of Two Drugs May Prevent Head and Neck Cancer

Studies show that taking the combination of erlotinib, an EGFR inhibitor, and celecoxib, a COX-2 inhibitor, showed promise in reducing the risk of head and neck cancer in high risk patients.
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Star-Gazing Software Used to Fight Breast Cancer

Astronomers and cancer researchers have teamed up to view tumors using software developed to view the stars.
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Priority Status Awarded to GSK for New HIV Drug

US regulators gave priority review status to an experimental drug (dolutegravir) for HIV/AIDS. This once daily drug has already performed strongly in clinical trials.
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Folic Acid During Pregnancy May Decrease Risk of Autism

A study conducted in Norway shows women who took folic acid before and during pregnancy may have a reduced risk of having a baby with autism.
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GSK Flu-Shot Linked to Narcolepsy

Children in Britain vaccinated with Pandemrix, H1N1 vaccine, were shown to have an increased risk for developing the sleep disorder narcolepsy.
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CDC Suggests Pregnant Women Need Whooping Cough Vaccine—With Each Pregnancy

According to the CDC, pregnant women need to receive the Tdap vaccine booster during each pregnancy to protect their newborns from whooping cough.
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New Dosage Recommendations for Zolpidem

Safety studies have shown that women need lower doses of zolpidem-containing products.
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Drug Approvals

Cancer Imaging Drug Approved

Approved drug, Lymphoseek is used to detect the spread of cancer to a patient's lymph nodes. The last time a lymph node locating drug was approved was over 30 years ago.
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New Drug Approved For Postmenopausal Women Experiencing Pain During Sex

Ospheha (ospemifene) has been granted FDA approval for the treatment of dyspareunia.
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Drug Approved for Late-Stage Breast Cancer

Roche has brought a new breast cancer drug to the market—Kadcyla (ado-trastuzumab emtansine). This drug will benefit those who express large amounts of the HER2 protein.
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FDA Approves Stivarga, A New GI Cancer Drug

Stivarga (regorafenib) is an oral tablet that was recently approved for unresectable or metastatic gastrointestinal stroma tumor.
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FDA Approves Polamyst

Polamyst, an agent for advanced multiple myeloma, has recently been approved.
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FDA Approves Generic Doxil

Doxorubicin HCl, the generic version of cancer medication Doxil, will be available in 20mg and 50mg vials.
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Ravicti (glycerol phenylbutyrate) Gains FDA Approval

An agent for urea cycle disorders, Ravicti offers management in patients 2 years of age and older.
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New Guidelines

Hyperphosphataemia in CKD Patient – New Guidelines Published

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has released new guidelines on treating hyperphosphataemia in chronic kidney disease (CKD).
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New Guidelines Issued for Treating Children's Ear Infections

These guidelines use more stringent criteria for making a diagnosis and base treatment options on a child's age and severity of symptoms.
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Infertility Guidelines Published

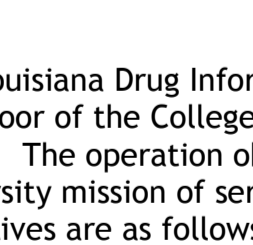
NICE has recently issued new guidance on treating infertility.
[View Guideline](#)

Updated GERD Guidelines Released

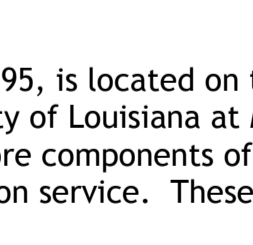
The American Journal of Gastroenterology has published new clinical guidelines regarding the diagnosis and management of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).
[View Guideline](#)

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ULM COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Drug Information Center
318-342-5501
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The Louisiana Drug Information Center (DIC), which became operational in 1995, is located on the first floor of the College of Pharmacy (COP) Bienville Building of the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). The operation objectives of the DIC are centered around the three core components of the University mission of service, teaching and scholarship, with a primary focus on service. These objectives are as follows:

- ◆ To provide current, comprehensive, objective and need-specific information to the healthcare professional community of the State of Louisiana for clinical decision making and for the delivery of quality patient care.
- ◆ To serve as an information resource center for faculty, students, and healthcare professionals.
- ◆ To teach pharmacy students, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers the skills of efficient literature retrieval, critical evaluation of the information, and accurate communication of a response.
- ◆ To conduct research for the advancement of drug information and pharmacy practice.

The service component makes up the largest portion of the DIC operation and includes providing assistance with areas such as literature retrieval, evidence-based recommendations and off-label use of medications. We respond to drug information requests from healthcare professionals regarding the following areas:

- Adverse Drug Events
- Availability of Products
- Complimentary and Alternative Medicine
- Clinical Kinetics
- Drug Dosage and Scheduling
- Drug Identification
- Drug Interactions
- Drug Regulations/Laws
- Drug Use Evaluation/Support
- Institutional Review Board Support
- Investigational/Foreign Drugs
- IV Compatibility
- Laboratory Interpretation
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Support
- Pregnancy and Lactation
- Product Compounding
- Therapeutic Drug Monitoring
- Therapeutic Uses/Drugs of Choice
- Toxicology
- Travel/Health Information

The DIC has a new phone number and provides information services exclusively to the healthcare professionals of the State of Louisiana. Additionally, this service is available to Medicaid providers through support from the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management Program.

Please contact us and let us assist you with any drug information needs at our new number for Healthcare Professionals Drug Information Service: **318-342-5501**

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For comments and suggestions please email druginfo@ulm.edu.

Disclaimer: No information source can replace clinical judgment applied to a specific case. Some of the drug therapy we write about will be outside the labeled indications for specific products. References will be provided when possible. Consult these references, product labeling, and/or give us a call if we can help with specific cases. This newsletter is supported by the University of Louisiana at Monroe College of Pharmacy and is not intended for commercial promotion.