



RETIREE RXCARE™ NEWSLETTER

What to do if you suspect you have received a recalled medication in this specific recall:

- Do not immediately stop taking your medication
- Contact your dispensing pharmacy to determine if you have received a recalled medication
- If you have a recalled medication, discuss with your pharmacist and prescriber about an alternative manufacturer or similar medication within the same class
- Additional updates and lists of medication that are recalled, as well as not recalled can be found at:
<https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/default.htm>

2019 BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICATION RECALL UPDATE

Throughout 2018 the FDA has been monitoring and issuing recalls of many varieties of the anti-hypertensive class of medications known as “ARBs” or Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (valsartan, losartan, Irbesartan, azilsartan, olmesartan, eprosartan, candesartan, and telmisartan). During the manufacturing process, certain by-product molecules known as nitrosamines are made and purified to extremely low or undetectable levels in the final product. These compounds are monitored closely because they have been classified as a probable human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Not all ARBs contain these impurities, however the FDA has set strict limitations on their daily intake to ensure they do not exceed known safe levels.

WHAT IS BEING RECALLED AND NEXT STEPS

Only specific manufacturers and lots of ARBs are undergoing the voluntary recalls. The most commonly affected generics include valsartan and losartan. Combination products such as amlodipine/valsartan for example may also be subject to the recall if they contain a lot of the recalled ARB. The FDA is urging patients who may suspect they are taking a recalled medication to continue taking their medication as directed, and to check with their dispensing pharmacy if they may have received a recalled product. If you have in fact received a recalled medication, you should contact your pharmacist or physician who can advise them about an alternative treatment or manufacturer of their original medication.

