

FDA Label Update for Non-Prescription, Non-Aspirin NSAIDs

Background

The FDA has recently mandated that all manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) non-aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) update their product labeling with respect to cardiovascular (CV) risks. These changes follow CV label changes for prescription non-aspirin NSAIDs and are based on comprehensive review and advisory committee recommendations. This update was not informed by any new study data.

FDA mandate for prescription non-aspirin NSAIDs

In July 2015, FDA released a Drug Safety Communication (DSC) on non-aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and CV risk for consumers, patients, and healthcare providers. The FDA conducted a comprehensive review that included meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials, observational and other types of studies published in medical literature since 2005, and advisory committee meetings. This review concluded that the prescription NSAID class labeling must be updated. As a result, in May 2016, the FDA announced class label changes for all non-aspirin prescription NSAIDs, including Celebrex, Mobic, Indocin, and Toradol, that would strengthen existing potential CV risk warning language. Additional language was added to the Boxed Warning under CV Events as well as the Warnings and Precautions section under CV Thrombotic Events (5.1) and Heart Failure and Edema (5.5). The Patient Prescribing Information and Medication Guide were also updated to reflect the new language.

FDA mandate for OTC non-aspirin NSAIDs

Subsequent to the prescription NSAID class label changes, the FDA issued a mandate in August 2016 requiring that drug facts labeling for all OTC non-aspirin NSAIDs, including Advil, also be updated. This update includes moving and modifying an existing CV risk warning to a new heading within the “Warnings” section of the drug facts label and providing CV symptoms for clarification.

These label changes are not based on new studies or new data since previously mentioned FDA review; there are no new data or studies on the potential CV risks associated with OTC non-aspirin NSAIDs.

Specific OTC non-aspirin NSAIDs, including Advil class label updates

Please review the following updates in red to the Advil class label, which help clarify the potential harm resulting from these CV risks:

OLD LABEL	UPDATED LABEL
<p>Stomach bleeding warning</p> <p>This product contains an NSAID, which may cause severe stomach bleeding. The chance is higher if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> are age 60 or older<input type="checkbox"/> have had stomach ulcers or bleeding problems<input type="checkbox"/> take a blood thinning (anticoagulant) or steroid drug<input type="checkbox"/> take other drugs containing prescription or nonprescription NSAIDs [aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, or others]<input type="checkbox"/> have 3 or more alcoholic drinks every day while using this product<input type="checkbox"/> take more or for a longer time than directed	<p>Stomach bleeding warning</p> <p>This product contains an NSAID, which may cause severe stomach bleeding. The chance is higher if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> are age 60 or older<input type="checkbox"/> have had stomach ulcers or bleeding problems<input type="checkbox"/> take a blood thinning (anticoagulant) or steroid drug<input type="checkbox"/> take other drugs containing prescription or nonprescription NSAIDs [aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, or others]<input type="checkbox"/> have 3 or more alcoholic drinks every day while using this product<input type="checkbox"/> take more or for a longer time than directed <p>Heart attack and stroke warning: NSAIDs, except aspirin, increase the risk of heart attack, heart failure, and stroke. These can be fatal. The risk is higher if you use more than directed or for longer than directed</p>
<p>Ask a doctor before use if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> stomach bleeding warning applies to you<input type="checkbox"/> you have problems or serious side effects from taking pain relievers or fever reducers<input type="checkbox"/> you have a history of stomach problems, such as heartburn<input type="checkbox"/> you have high blood pressure, heart disease, liver cirrhosis, kidney disease, or asthma<input type="checkbox"/> you are taking a diuretic	<p>Ask a doctor before use if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> stomach bleeding warning applies to you<input type="checkbox"/> you have problems or serious side effects from taking pain relievers or fever reducers<input type="checkbox"/> you have a history of stomach problems, such as heartburn<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> you have high blood pressure, heart disease, liver cirrhosis, kidney disease, asthma, or had a stroke<input type="checkbox"/> you are taking a diuretic
<p>When using this product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> take with food or milk if stomach upset occurs<input type="checkbox"/> the risk of heart attack or stroke may increase if you use more than directed or for longer than directed	<p>When using this product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> take with food or milk if stomach upset occurs<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the risk of heart attack or stroke may increase if you use more than directed or for longer than directed
<p>Stop use and ask a doctor if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> you experience any of the following signs of stomach bleeding:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> feel faint<input type="checkbox"/> vomit blood<input type="checkbox"/> have bloody or black stools<input type="checkbox"/> have stomach pain that does not get better<input type="checkbox"/> pain gets worse or lasts more than 10 days<input type="checkbox"/> fever gets worse or lasts more than 3 days<input type="checkbox"/> redness or swelling is present in the painful area<input type="checkbox"/> any new symptoms appear	<p>Stop use and ask a doctor if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> you experience any of the following signs of stomach bleeding:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> feel faint<input type="checkbox"/> vomit blood<input type="checkbox"/> have bloody or black stools<input type="checkbox"/> have stomach pain that does not get better<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> you have symptoms of heart problems or stroke:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> chest pain<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> trouble breathing<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> weakness in one part or side of body<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slurred speech<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> leg swelling<input type="checkbox"/> pain gets worse or lasts more than 10 days<input type="checkbox"/> fever gets worse or lasts more than 3 days<input type="checkbox"/> redness or swelling is present in the painful area<input type="checkbox"/> any new symptoms appear

Patient dialogue

Patients are now urged to ask their physicians before using OTC NSAIDs if they have had a stroke in the past. **Patients are also encouraged to stop use and ask a doctor** if they have symptoms of heart problems or stroke, including chest pain, trouble breathing, weakness in one part or side of body, slurred speech, or leg swelling. This additional language will help to ensure patients identify the signs and symptoms of a heart attack or stroke.

Pfizer's commitment to safe NSAID use

Pfizer continues to be fully committed to patient safety. OTC ibuprofen (Advil) has a long history of safety and efficacy when used as directed. For more than 30 years, extensive consumer use and clinical studies have shown that ibuprofen (Advil), when used as directed, is a safe and effective OTC pain reliever delivered in a lower strength than prescription ibuprofen. We encourage physicians and patients to review and follow all OTC and prescription medications' product labels, and use medications only as directed. We also encourage physicians to have an open dialogue with patients who may have questions or concerns about the new CV warning language.

If you would like more information on Pfizer's position regarding warning label changes for OTC non-aspirin NSAIDs, including Advil, please call 1-800-322-3129.