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## The FDA is Advising Health Care Professionals to Stop Prescribing Propoxyphene

Xanodyne Pharmaceuticals Inc. which makes Darvon and Darvocet, the brand version of the prescription pain medication propoxyphene, has agreed to withdraw the medication from the U.S. market at the request of the U.S. FDA. The FDA requested that the generic manufacturers of propoxyphene-containing products remove their products as well.

The FDA sought market withdrawal after receiving new clinical data showing that the drug puts patients at risk of potentially serious or even fatal heart rhythm abnormalities. As a result of these data, combined with other information, including new epidemiological data, the agency concluded that the risks of the medication outweigh the benefits.

The FDA is advising health care professionals to stop prescribing propoxyphene to their patients, and patients who are currently taking the drug should contact their health care professional as soon as possible to discuss switching to another pain management therapy.

Propoxyphene is an opioid used to treat mild to moderate pain. First approved by the FDA in 1957, propoxyphene is sold by prescription under various names both alone (e.g., Darvon) or in combination with acetaminophen (e.g., Darvocet).

### Additional Information for Healthcare Professionals

FDA recommends that healthcare professionals:

- Stop prescribing and dispensing propoxyphene-containing products to patients.
- Contact patients currently taking propoxyphene-containing products and ask them to discontinue the drug.
- Inform patients of the risks associated with propoxyphene.
- Discuss alternative pain management strategies other than propoxyphene with your patients.
- Be aware of the possible risk of cardiac conduction abnormalities (prolonged QT, PR, and QRS intervals) in patients taking propoxyphene and assess patients for these events if they present with any signs or symptoms of arrhythmia.
- Report any side effects with propoxyphene to FDA's MedWatch program *From <http://www.fda.gov>*

### A-S Medication Solutions has obsoleted the following products due to the Market Withdrawal.

We will be requesting our accounts to return any remaining stock they may have. Our regulatory department will be faxing a letter out to accounts that have purchased these products and are within the expiration date.

- # 0007 Darvocet-N 100
- # 0223 Propoxyphene HCl 65mg
- # 2588 Acetaminophen/Propoxyphene HCl 650mg/65mg
- # 0015/#3292 Acetaminophen/Propoxyphene Napsylate 650mg/100mg

## New Products Offered (November 2010):

Part #	Description	Strength	Form	Route	Size	Unit of Measure
6203-0	lidocaine/prilocaine	2.5%/2.5%	cream	external	30	gm
4471-1	thyroid, armour	1.5gr	tab	oral	30	ea
6055-1	cetirizine HCl/pseudoephedrine HCl	5mg/120mg	ER Tab	oral	24	ea
6204-0	azithromycin	500mg	tab	oral	5	ea
5609-1	promethazine HCl	50mg/ml	SDV	inj	( 25 x 1ml) 25	ml