

March 23, 2020

COM-2020-018

DRUG SAFETY NOTIFICATION



DATE: March 19, 2020

DRUG NAME: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

DRUG INDICATION: Inflammation reduction, pain relief, and fever reduction

SAFETY TOPIC: FDA advises patients on use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for COVID-19

Dear provider of pharmaceutical services,

At PharmPix we are committed to the health and well-being of patients. The clinical team wants to communicate you with the latest up-to-date information on drug safety. It is for this reason that we are notifying you that on March 19, 2020, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a safety communication regarding the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for the novel coronavirus COVID-19. In their communication, the FDA states that they are aware of news reports stating the use of NSAIDs could worsen COVID-19 disease. However, currently, the FDA is NOT aware of scientific evidence connecting the use of NSAIDs with worsening COVID-19 symptoms. The FDA is investigating this issue and more information will be communicated when available.

Recommendations for healthcare professionals:

- Provide education to patients who wish to use treatment options other than NSAIDs regarding different over the counter (OTC) and prescription medications FDA-approved for pain relief and fever reduction.
- Advise patients and/or caregivers to speak to their healthcare professional if they are concerned about taking NSAIDs and rely on these medications to treat chronic diseases.
- Encourage patients and/or caregivers to read the full Drug Facts Label on OTC medications prior to use.

- Report adverse events or side effects to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program.

Additional information can be found at the FDA's Drug Safety and Availability portal (<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability>).

Best regards,

PharmPix Clinical Department

Reference:

- FDA advises patients on use of NSAIDs for COVID-19. (2020). Retrieved March 2020, from <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-patients-use-non-steroidal-anti-inflammatory-drugs-nsaids-covid-19>