



PHARMACY / PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are medication experts who use their detailed knowledge of medicines to help patients get well. Duties include dispensing medications, assuring the safety and appropriateness of the prescribed therapy, monitoring patient health and progress, partnering with consumers and patients to provide education and advice on the use of medications. They also collaborate with physicians, nurses, and other health care team members to provide expertise on drug decisions and improve patient outcomes, providing knowledge about the composition of drugs and safeguard drug purity and strength.

*Text 1***Warnings Proposed For Non-Prescriptions Drugs**

1. The dangers of **over-the-counter** painkillers will be **highlighted** on the labels of hundreds of common drugs under a proposal announced by the **Food and Drug Administration** (FDA). The proposed warnings about possible **adverse effects**, which include liver **failure** from acetaminophen and gastrointestinal bleeding from other medicines like aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen and ketoprofen, follow alarms about the **overuse** of such medications.
2. According to FDA office of non-prescription drugs, such drugs are quite safe, but when they are used by millions of people every week, as is the case, rare problems could come to light.
3. Doctors have **raised concerns** about overdoses from drugs that contain acetaminophen, which is known to be **leading cause** of **acute** liver failure. More than 200 million Americans a year take products like Tylenol with acetaminophen, and overdoses cause up to 450 deaths a year from acute liver failure. Up to 200 of these deaths occur when patients unknowingly take too much of a single drug or combine multiple medications that contain the same active molecule.
4. For example, people will take sleeping pills, as well as a **cold** remedy and medicines for **joint** pain without realizing that each of these products contains acetaminophen. As a result, they are unknowingly taking three times the maximum daily dose of the drug.
5. The proposed regulations would mean that any of the hundreds of over-the counter products with acetaminophen would have to list it on the principal label of the container and the **outer packaging**. The containers would include a warning that acetaminophen overdoses can cause liver failure and that the drug should not be used by people drinking three or more alcoholic drinks a day.
6. Products that contain **NSAIDs** like aspirin and ibuprofen can cause gastrointestinal bleeding. One study found 15 deaths as a result of gastrointestinal bleeding for each 100,000 users of such medications. The new labels will underline the fact that these dangers are particularly high in people older than 60, with ulcers or prior stomach bleeding, who are taking **blood thinners** or steroid medications, and consuming more than three drinks a day or taking more than one product containing the drugs.

Vocabulary

- 1- **Prescription:** a doctor's written instructions that enable a patient to obtain medicines or other forms of treatments.
- 2- **Over-the-Counter (OTC):** non-prescription that may be bought without a medical prescription.
- 3- **Highlighted:** to emphasize a point to it so as to draw attention to it
- 4- **Label:** a notice fixed on the container providing information about the product.
- 5- **Food and Drug Administration:** The United States agency responsible for evaluating new treatments and regulating the safety of food, drugs, vaccines...
- 6- **Adverse effects:** adverse events (side-effects = effets secondaires)
- 7- **Failure:** the inability of an organ to perform its proper function (heart failure, renal insufficiency)
- 8- **Overuse:** excessive use.
- 9- **Raise concerns:** to express worries
- 10- **Leading cause:** main cause, principal cause
- 11- **Acute ≠ chronic:** having severe symptoms of short duration
- 12- **Outer ≠ inner : External**
- 13- **Packaging :** the box in which drugs are presented
- 14- **NSAIDS :** non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs
- 15- **Blood thinners = anticoagulants :** drugs used to make the blood more fluid