

NAMS

News



FDA Takes Action Against Compounded HT

The FDA has recently issued warning letters to several compounding pharmacies about unlawful practices undertaken by those pharmacies related to so-called “bioidentical hormone replacement therapy” (BHRT) drugs, a custom-compounded form of menopausal hormone therapy (HT). The FDA’s letters warned the pharmacies that the claims they make about the safety and effectiveness of their BHRT products are unsupported by medical evidence, and are considered false and misleading by the Agency. These false claims include statements that compounded BHRT drugs are safer or more effective than FDA-approved HT drugs,

and claims that compounded BHRT drugs can prevent or treat serious illnesses such as Alzheimer’s disease and certain forms of cancer. These pharmacies were instructed to immediately cease making these false and misleading claims or they would be subjected to additional FDA enforcement actions.

In addition, the FDA warned a number of pharmacies that they may not compound products using the hormone estriol without a valid investigational new drug application. No drug product containing estriol has ever been approved by the FDA and therefore cannot be sold. Consumers were warned that the safety and effectiveness of estriol are unknown. Furthermore, the FDA letters stated that there is no scientific basis for using saliva testing to adjust hormone levels.

The FDA’s action will not limit a woman’s access to compounded hormone therapies prescribed by her healthcare provider to meet her specific medical needs. However, because compounded drugs are not reviewed by the FDA, the safety and effectiveness of these drugs are not known. The FDA encourages patients to use FDA-approved drugs whenever possible. For more, go to www.fda.gov/cder/pharmcomp/default.htm.

Mark Your Calendar

The NAMS 2008 Annual Meeting will convene September 24-27 at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, FL. In addition to the spectacular venue, the scientific program (planned around

Future NAMS Annual Meetings

19th NAMS Annual Meeting

September 24–27, 2008 • Orlando, FL

20th NAMS Annual Meeting

September 30–October 3, 2009 • San Diego, CA

21st NAMS Annual Meeting

October 6–9, 2010 • Chicago, IL

22nd NAMS Annual Meeting

September 21–24, 2011 • Washington, DC

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the theme of “Is It Age or Is It Menopause?”) with great speakers debating controversial topics is sure to engage all attendees.

“We promise you cutting-edge scientific information, clinical pearls, and unsurpassed networking opportunities,” said Dr. JoAnn Pinkerton, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee.

Submit Your Research for Presentation

All are invited and encouraged to share their work in the field of menopause by submitting scientific abstracts to be considered for presentation at the NAMS 2008 Annual Meeting. Submit your abstracts between January 15 and April 30 through the NAMS Web site (www.menopause.org/meetings/abstracts1.htm).

New Textbook Aids Practice

You’re reading *Menopause Management*—which provides practical information in an easy-to-digest format. You would receive more comprehensive information—all approved by NAMS—in the 3rd edition of the Society’s 336-page textbook, *Menopause Practice: A Clinician’s Guide*. It’s been widely acclaimed as the best resource for the menopause practitioner. Plus, it offers 25 hours of CME credit. Contact NAMS for an order form or order your copy through the secure NAMS Web Store.

Order NAMS Educational Materials

Start the new year right with an order for helpful patient education materials from NAMS. They will save you counseling time worth far more than the cost of the materials.

Webcast Available of 2007 Annual Meeting Sessions

Be sure to check out one or more of the many presentations from the 2007 Annual Meeting that are Webcast free of charge. Go to www.menopause.org/meetings/2007webcast.htm.

Executive Director Earns Advanced Degree

We know you join us in congratulating Dr. Wulf Utian, *Menopause Management* Editor-in-Chief and NAMS Executive Director, on being awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in Medicine from the University of Cape Town (South Africa) in recognition of his original published work, which has been seminal to medical progress.

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