



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Update on Blood Pressure Medication Recall: Amlodipine and Hydrochlorothiazide are Safe**

Rochester, NY, December 6, 2018 - Over the past several months, several lots of blood pressure medications have been recalled by the FDA due to concerns that the products may contain a small amount of a chemical called NDEA, which is found in some smoked and cured meats but has also been shown to potentially be linked to causing cancer in higher exposure. All of the medications recalled were blood pressure medications known as angiotensin receptor blockers, which are also called "ARBs". Pills used to control blood pressure can contain a single drug, such as valsartan (Diovan®), or multiple drugs, also known as "combination products", such as valsartan/amlodipine (Exforge®) or valsartan/amlodipine/hydrochlorothiazide (Exforge-HCT®).

There has been some recent confusion about what drugs have been recalled and what patients should do if they are taking medications they think may have been recalled. First and foremost, our recommendation is to CONTINUE taking the medication, and verify with your pharmacy that the medication you are taking is part of the recall. Secondly, if you are taking one of the recalled medications, CONTINUE taking the drug until you have spoken to your physician to receive an alternate treatment, as the risk of sudden discontinuation of the drug is greater than the small risk of exposure to the NDMA potentially contained in the affected drugs. Only prescriptions containing valsartan are affected by this recall. Fortunately, this recall affects a very small amount of medications currently dispensed to patients.

More information is available on the FDA's website: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls/>

**If you are concerned you may have received a recalled product, contact your pharmacy, who can determine if you were dispensed any of the products recalled.**

###

#### **Media Contact:**

Carol Burke  
Communications Manager/Designer  
Monroe County Medical Society  
132 Allens Creek Rd., Suite 100  
Rochester, NY 14618  
O: (585) 473-7573  
E: [cburke@mcms.org](mailto:cburke@mcms.org)