

Medication Alert

On June 12, 2009 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced new warning labels on montelukast (**Singulair**), zafirlukast (**Accolate**), and zileuton (**Zyflo and Zyflo CR**) regarding increased risk of neuropsychiatric events. These three drugs are used to treat asthma. In addition, Singulair is used to treat allergic rhinitis in some patients.

The FDA based its safety review on data submitted by the manufacturers of these drugs. The manufacturers found cases of agitation, aggression, anxiousness, dream abnormalities and hallucinations, depression, insomnia, irritability, restlessness, suicidal thinking and behavior (including suicide), and tremor. These are referred to as neuropsychiatric events.

The FDA recommends:

- Patients and healthcare professionals should be aware of the potential for neuropsychiatric events with these medications.
- Patients should talk with their healthcare providers if these events occur.
- **Patients should NOT STOP taking these medications before talking to their healthcare provider.**
- Healthcare professionals should consider discontinuing these medications if patients develop neuropsychiatric symptoms.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/DrugSafetyInformationforHeathcareProfessionals/ucm165489.htm>

Sincerely,



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On behalf of the Medical Providers at CAAC