

FDA Report to PharmPAC
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"FDA Patient Safety News," the FDA's monthly video series for health care professionals, has won the Cheers Award from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) for efforts to improve the safe use of medical products and prevent medical errors. The ISMP Cheers Awards honors organizations that have set a superior standard of excellence for others to follow in the prevention of medication errors and adverse drug events.

"FDA Patient Safety News" is broadcast monthly over several medical satellite television networks to more than 4,500 U.S. hospitals and long-term care facilities. It conveys safety information about drugs, devices and vaccines directly from the FDA to physicians, pharmacists, nurses, risk managers and educators across the country; reports on recalls and safety alerts and medical errors; and provides tips on how to protect patients. The program's video format makes possible the demonstration of patient protection techniques; showing of recalled and counterfeit products; illustrating how medical errors occur; and demonstrating how to reduce risks when using medical products. In addition to the monthly satellite broadcasts, a link to the show is distributed by e-mail every month to approximately 170,000 subscribers. The program also has its own Web page, <http://www.fda.gov/psn>, where viewers can download the videos or watch them online, read or print the story scripts, or subscribe to receive the program via video podcasting or RSS feed—all free of charge.

On December 3, FDA and WebMD announced a collaboration that expands consumers' access to the FDA's timely and reliable important health information. This joint effort reflects the FDA's emphasis on using innovative, technology-based strategies to carry out its foremost mission, which is to promote and to protect the public health. WebMD, which attracts nearly 50 million unique visitors each month, provides consumers with credible and timely health news and information. See: http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/WebMD_partnership.html

On December 12, FDA approved Lusedra (fospropofol disodium) Injection for monitored anesthesia care sedation in adult patients undergoing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

On December 18, FDA approved Mozobil (plerixafor), a drug that helps increase the number of blood stem cells for bone marrow transplantation in patients with certain forms of blood cancer. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01929.html>

On December 22, FDA approved Vasovist (gadofosveset trisodium) Injection as the first contrast imaging agent for use in patients undergoing magnetic resonance angiography to evaluate aortoiliac occlusive disease in adults with known or suspected peripheral vascular disease. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01934.html>

On December 24, FDA approved Degarelix for injection for the treatment of patients with advanced prostate cancer. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01935.html>