

# THE DANGER OF COMBINING OPIOIDS AND BENZODIAZEPINES

## FDA will require opioid painkillers to include labels warning of the dangers of combining them with benzodiazepines

September 2016 Newsletter

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it is requiring changes to drug labeling to warn of the serious risks associated with the combined use of opioid medications and benzodiazepines. (Benzodiazepines treat anxiety, insomnia, and seizures.)

FDA is requiring boxed warnings for opioids and benzodiazepines, regarding the serious risks associated with using these medications at the same time. Risks include extreme sleepiness, respiratory depression, coma and death. FDA's Opioids Action Plan focuses on policies aimed at reversing the prescription opioid abuse epidemic, while still providing patients access to effective and appropriate pain management. The FDA announcement may be found [here](#).

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf said, "It is nothing short of a public health crisis when you see a substantial increase of avoidable overdose and death related to two widely used drug classes being taken together."

**WARNING: RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS**

**Risks From Concomitant Use With Benzodiazepines Or Other CNS Depressants**

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.X)*, *Drug Interactions (7.X)*].

- Reserve concomitant prescribing of [TRADENAME] and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

For patients requiring multiple pharmacy prescriptions, Provant Therapy from Regenesis Biomedical Inc. is a safe, non-drug pain management option to consider. Over 13,000 patients have treated with Provant. To learn more, please contact your Regenesis representative, or visit [www.regenesishio.com](http://www.regenesishio.com). If you have colleagues that would like to receive these monthly newsletters, please forward this email to them; they may subscribe by emailing us at [newsletter@regenesisbio.com](mailto:newsletter@regenesisbio.com).



Sincerely,

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