Lo/Ovral Oral Contraceptive Recall

A recall has been issued for Lo/Ovral oral contraceptive products. A packaging error may result in a mix-up of active and inactive pills, and could leave women without adequate contraception and at risk for unintended pregnancy. Some blister packs may contain an inexact count of active tablets and may be out of sequence.

What oral contraceptives are affected? Lo/Ovral (by Pfizer) and generic norgestrel/ ethinyl estradiol (by Akrimax) are affected.

This medication is available generically. Cryselle and Low-Ogestrel are generic equivalents and are not affected by this recall.

Specific lot numbers of these products are affected. Pharmacies can help determine if an oral contraceptive is affected.

What should women do?

- Women who are taking birth control pills that may be affected by this recall (Lo/Ovral by Pfizer, and norgestrel/ ethinyl estradiol by Akrimax) can contact their pharmacy to verify if their prescription was one of the affected lots.
- The pharmacy can substitute a different birth control prescription for the patient which they should start taking right away. Patients can start the new pack on the pill marked for today's weekday in the first week of pills. So if it is Tuesday, she can start with Tuesday's pill instead of Sunday's pill.
- Women should use an alternate non-hormonal form of contraception for two weeks.
- Patients may have a delay in their period depending on where they were in the sequence of taking their pills.
- If a patient has concerns about being pregnant they should do a pregnancy test.
- If the patient does not get their period at the end of the cycle of the new birth control pills, they should do a pregnancy test.

What is HealthPartners doing? HealthPartners is sending patient letters, advising patients to contact providers.

FDA Recall notice, www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm289770.htm.

For more information, contact Pete Marshall.