

# Specialty Drug News

## Keep a List of Those Medications!

In the morning, you take that yellow pill, with a glass of milk. In the afternoon, you take the pink capsule with lunch. At night you take the blue square pill.

It's great that you know which pill to take and when, but do you know the name of the medication, the dosages you take and why you take them?

Knowledge of your medications could save your life in an emergency situation.

People who do not know the names of the medications or the dosages they are taking can't fully inform medical staff. This in turn, could effect prescribing as their drugs may interact with other medications. Not knowing this information could delay treatment in

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Dr. Blanca Fernandez-Kline, a physician at Gulfgate Health Center says, "Some medications could change the way each works and either increase or decrease the effects of those medications. Furthermore, there are some medications that may need to be avoided in certain medical conditions". \* Keeping a list of medications, dosages and the reason for use is invaluable if you cannot communicate the information to a phy-

sician or emergency room triage. Including over-the-counter medicines, herbs, vitamins and supplements is also important. By keeping this type of list with you, medical staff can determine what medications are safe to prescribe thereby avoiding harmful combinations of drugs. The list must be updated with each new addition or deletion of drugs.

One way of keeping this information close at hand is to wear a medical ID. Check the internet. They've come a long way in the past few years and offer many options. One style that is available is SOS Emergency Medical ID bracelet. This brand includes a 12-inch strip of paper on the inside of the ID to write down important medical information. Additional strips can be purchased so information can be continually updated. They also offer "cool" bracelets for children. Check out [www.bindependent.com](http://www.bindependent.com) for more information.

\*Source: Medical News Today



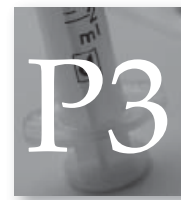
Keep a List of Those Medications!



FDA Approves First Drug for Treatment of Fibromyalgia



Can Your Own Immune System Win the Cancer Fight?



Drug Listing by Disease/Condition

## FDA Approves First Drug for Treatment of Fibromyalgia

Those patients who suffer from fibromyalgia now have available a new drug to help alleviate chronic pain. The drug is Lyrica, manufactured by New York-based Pfizer, Inc. Lyrica was previously approved for treating partial seizures, pain following the rash of shingles and pain associated with diabetes nerve damage (diabetic neuropathy).

*“The new approval marks an important advance, and provides a reason for optimism for the many patients who will receive pain relief with Lyrica”, said Steven Galson, M.D., M.P.H., director of FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.*

“However, consumers should understand that some patients did not experience benefit in clinical trials. We still have more progress to make for treatment of this disorder”, said Dr. Steven Galson, M.D.

Fibromyalgia is a chronic syndrome characterized by muscle, joint and bone pain, fatigue, and a wide range of other symptoms. It is not contagious and recent studies suggest that people with fibromyalgia may be genetically predisposed. It affects more females than males.

Fibromyalgia is seen in 3% to 6% of the general population, and is most commonly diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, though onset can occur in childhood. The disease is not life-threatening, though the degree of symptoms may vary greatly from day to day with periods of flares (severe worsening of symptoms) or remission. The syndrome is generally perceived as non-progressive, yet that issue is still debated.

## Computerized Medicine Box

**A programmable device that stores and dispenses prescription medicine in the patient’s home has been approved by the FDA.**

Electronic Medication Management Assistant (EMMA) was designed to be used under the supervision of a licensed health provider. The equipment reduces drug identification and dosing errors and can allow doctors to monitor patient compliance in an outpatient setting. This type of system will be a great advantage for aging patients or those whose medication regimens are extremely complicated.

EMMA is about the size of a bread box and plugs into a standard power outlet. It consists of a medication delivery unit and two-way communication software that allows a health care professional to remotely manage prescriptions stored and released. EMMA emits an audible alert to the patient and releases the medication into a delivery tray at the appropriate time. The Web-based application allows the physician or pharmacist to remotely schedule or adjust a patient’s prescribed medication and also provides a history of each time patients access their medication.

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## Can Your Own Immune System Win the Cancer Fight?

**Imagine being able to teach your own body’s immune system to go on a search and destroy mission to kill cancer cells. Current research shows that cells in the immune system have the capacity to be trained to do just that.**

Cancer cells avoid immune attacks by convincing the immune system that they are normal cells, like putting on a disguise. Research is being designed to teach immune cells to recognize the disguise so that cancer cells can no longer hide and healthy tissue will remain untouched.

Scientists are working on a program that will allow them to identify which immune cells from humans can be modified in the laboratory and infused into patients where they will trigger other immune cells to go on the search and destroy mission. Since this method only attacks cancer cells patients should not suffer from the devastating side effects as with traditional types of cancer treatment.

*For more information regarding LDI’s Specialty Newsletter, please contact us:*

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# Specialty Medication Listing by Disease/Condition

## AIDS/HIV

Daunoxome  
Doxil  
Intron A  
Roferon-A  
Serostim  
Taxol  
Fuzeon

## Alpha1 - Proteinase Inhibitor Deficiency

Aralast  
Prolastin  
Zemaira

## Antihemophilic Agents

Antihemophilic Factor  
Advate  
Alphanate  
Bioclote  
Helixate FS  
Hemofil M  
Humate P  
Hyate C  
Koate DVI  
Kogenate FS  
Monarc M  
Monoclate P  
Recombinate  
ReFacto

## Anti-nausea

Aloxi  
Anzemet  
Emend  
Kytril  
Zofran

## Asthma

Xolair

## Cancer/Related

Adriamycin  
Adrucil  
Alkeran  
Aredia  
Avastin  
BiCNU  
Blenoxane  
Busulfex  
Campath  
Camptosar  
Cerubidine  
Cosmegen  
Cytarabine  
Cytosan  
Depocyt

Doxil  
DTIC-Dome  
Eligard  
Ellence  
Erbitux  
Ethyol  
Faslodex  
Fludara  
Gemzar  
Gleevec  
Herceptin  
Hycamtin  
Idamycin  
IFEX  
Intron A  
Leucovorin  
Leukine  
Leustatin  
Lupron Depot  
Lupron Depot-Ped  
Mesnex  
Mustargen  
Mutamycin  
Mylotarg  
Navelbine  
Nexavar  
Nipent  
Novantrone  
Oncaspar  
Ontak  
Paraplatin  
Platinol AQ  
Proleukin  
Rituxan  
Roferon-A  
Sutent  
Tarceva  
Taxol  
Taxotere  
Temodar  
Thyrogen  
Toposar  
Trelstar Depot  
Trelstar LA  
Trisenox  
VePesid  
Vinblastine  
Vincasar  
Vumon  
Xeloda  
Zanosar  
Zoladex  
Zometa

## Contraceptives

Depo-Provera

## Crohn's Disease

Remicade

## Dystonia

Botox  
Myobloc

## Factor IX Concentrates

Alphanine SD  
Benefix  
Mononine  
Profilnine SD  
Proplex T  
Bebulin VH

## Gaucher's Disease

Ceredase  
Cerezyme  
Zavesca

## Growth Hormone Deficiency

Genotropin  
Humatrope  
Norditropin  
Nutropin  
Nutropin AQ  
Saizen

## Hematologics

Arixtra  
Aranesp  
Epogen  
Fragmin  
Innohep  
Lovenox  
Neulasta  
Neumega  
Neupogen  
Procrit

## Hepatitis C

Copegus  
Infergen  
Intron A  
Pegasys  
Peg-Intron  
Rebetron  
Roferon-A

## Hormone Deficiency

Delatestryl  
Delestrogen  
Depo-Estradiol  
Depo-Testosterone

## Hunter Syndrome

Elaprase

## Primary Immunodeficiency

Carimune NF  
Gamimune N  
Gammagard S/D  
Gammar-P  
Gamunex  
Iveegam EN  
Panglobulin  
Panglobulin NF  
Polygam S/D  
Venoglobulin-S

## Miscellaneous

Alferon-N  
Milrinone  
Zincard

## Multiple Sclerosis

Avonex  
Betaseron  
Copaxone  
Novantrone  
Rebif  
Tysabri

## Osteo/ Rheumatoid/ Psoriatic Arthritis

Enbrel  
Humira  
Hyalgan  
Kineret  
Orencia  
Remicade  
Supartz  
Synvisc

## Osteoporosis

Forteo  
Miacalcin

## Psoriasis

Amevive  
Enbrel  
Raptiva  
Remicade

## Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Synagis

## Rh Hemolytic Disease

BayRho-D  
Micro-Rhogam  
Rhogam  
WinRho-SDF