

Painkiller Safety

Matt Friedman:

The Food and Drug Administration is ordering drugmakers to reduce the amount of a key painkiller in several well-known prescriptions.

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The FDA says it will cap the amount of acetaminophen in drugs including Vicodin and Percocet at 325 milligrams per capsule. Current products can contain doses more than twice that limit. Acetaminophen also appears in over-the-counter drugs like Tylenol and NyQuil. Thursday's FDA order does not include those products, but the FDA is still considering limits on those OTC drugs.

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Acetaminophen is the leading cause of liver failure in the U.S. FDA officials say the labeling on prescription drugs often does not make it clear that they contain acetaminophen, and people don't realize they're overdosing.

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Matt Friedman, The Associated Press.

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