

Here are this week's health care news highlights from AskaPatient:

- "Snapchat dysmorphia" is a concerning new pattern where people want to have plastic surgery to look like their Snapchats. <http://ow.ly/YH130lgkZc> (08-06-18)
- An opt-out organ donor designation is expected by 2020 if proposed legislation is passed. <http://ow.ly/wvyg30lhawB> (08-06-18)
- Google Glass helps kids with autism improve social skills by helping them understand facial expressions. <http://ow.ly/ece530lhayL> (08-06-18)
- Doctors see suicide among their fellow physicians at double the rate of the general population. <http://ow.ly/KolA30liIoP> (08-07-18)
- New drug-delivery method could quickly treat heart attacks before the patient even reaches the surgical suite. <http://ow.ly/T7gG30liIqy> (08-07-18)
- Being a non-smoker does not guarantee a life free from lung cancer or the stigma that comes with it. <http://ow.ly/2YuZ30liiCK> (08-07-18)
- As the Suicide Prevention Lifeline struggles to keep up with calls, a proposed 3-digit number could overwhelm underfunded crisis centers. <http://ow.ly/tzUd30ljjbW> (08-08-18)
- Bioengineers demonstrate that magnets can be used on a gel filled with magnetic particles to manage pain. <http://ow.ly/473J30ljjow> (08-08-18)
- Can allergies sometimes be beneficial? Kids with allergies are much less likely to develop complicated appendicitis, study says. <http://ow.ly/dS9O30ljjwU> (08-08-18)
- If you are a woman having a heart attack, having a female doctor treating you could save your life. <http://ow.ly/Mj3430lkmRb> (08-09-18)
- World Bank loans Nigeria \$150 million to help eradicate polio, which still exists in only 3 countries. <http://ow.ly/o9ZL30lkn3e> (08-09-18)
- Scientists uncover molecular changes in cancer cells after combing through thousands of cancer patients' genetic information. <http://ow.ly/fn2N30lknfk> (08-09-18)
- Blue light from screens slowly kills our retinas, but its effects aren't limited to our eyes. <http://ow.ly/D3IZ30luVZ> (08-10-18)
- The number of pregnant women exposing their unborn children to opioids quadrupled in 15 years. <http://ow.ly/c5t930lv1w> (08-10-18)
- Virtual reality may help people conquer their fear of heights better than face-to-face therapy can. <http://ow.ly/xw4F30lvaP> (08-10-18)
- From the first of thousands of Roundup trials, Monsanto is ordered to pay \$289 million for failing to warn about cancer risk. <http://ow.ly/R3rg30lmrWJ> (08-11-18)
- A San Diego coroner finds that informing doctors when a patient dies from an opioid overdose changes their prescribing habits. <http://ow.ly/4HmH30lmseF> (08-11-18)
- Camber Pharmaceuticals joins the growing list of companies recalling blood pressure drug valsartan. Click here for the [complete FDA list](#). (8-11-18)

From AskaPatient: New drug warnings for fluoroquinolone antibiotics; list of drugs flagged by the FDA for potential safety problems

In the U.S., the FDA is responsible for continuously monitoring the safety of approved drug products. The FDA Adverse Events Reporting System (FAERS) enables the FDA to conduct "post-market surveillance" by requiring pharmaceutical companies to submit "adverse event

reports" for patient safety incidents related to their products. Last month, we reported on the exponential increase in these reports in recent years, along with an explanation of what the FDA does with the data.

Each quarter, the FDA releases a list of drugs that have been flagged for exhibiting new (not already listed on the product label) potential signals of serious safety risks. The list also includes a description of the action that the FDA is taking or has taken. In some cases, the FDA decides not to take any action based on available information. In other cases, they require a change on a product label to bring attention to a new product risk. A recent example is a new required warning on the entire class of **fluoroquinolone** drugs, which are very powerful antibiotics with a long list of side effects. The latest warning, issued July 10:

"The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is strengthening the current warnings **in the prescribing information that fluoroquinolone antibiotics may cause significant decreases in blood sugar and certain mental health side effects**. The low blood sugar levels can result in serious problems, including coma, particularly in older people and patients with diabetes who are taking medicines to reduce blood sugar. We are making these changes because our recent review found reports of life-threatening low blood sugar side effects and reports of additional mental health side effects."

The following table lists some commonly prescribed drugs that have adverse effects reported that have been identified in the past year by the FDA for further evaluation. Drug links go to AskaPatient reviews where patients have reported the side effects flagged by the FDA. The list is not complete. Click on the quarterly reports or FDA link below to view complete listings.

Drugs Under Evaluation for Possible FDA

Regulatory Action

Report Date

Fluoroquinolone antibiotics:

**causing low blood sugar,
hypoglycemic coma, and mental
health side effects**

[2017 Q4](#)

[resulted in 7/10/2018 label changes](#)

[Avelox](#)

Baxdela

[Cipro](#)

Cipro XR

Factive

[Levaquin](#)

Moxifloxacin

Ofloxacin

**Proton Pump Inhibitors: causing
polyps of stomach and duodenum**

[2018 Q1](#)

[Aciphex](#)

[Nexium](#)

[Prevacid](#)

[Protonix](#)

**Two Insomnia Medications:
causing sleepwalking, abnormal
sleep-related events**

[2018 Q1](#)

[Lunesta tablets](#)

[Sonata capsules](#)

Allergy/Asthma drug:

causing

[2017 Q4](#)

neuropsychiatric

adverse effects

[Singulair \(Montelukast Sodium\) tablets](#)

Orlistat weight-loss drugs: causing neuropsychiatric events*

[Alli capsule](#)

[Xenical capsule](#)

*this side effect for Orlistat not reported on AskPatient as of 8/2018.

Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) Agonists: causing musculoskeletal and connective tissue pain and discomfort

[Lupron](#)

[Lupron Depot PED](#)

Supprelin LA

[Synarel nasal solution](#)

Chart by AskPatient.com.

Sources and more reading

-Does the FDA's rapidly growing database of adverse events reports improve drug safety? [AskPatient newsletter](#): July 1, 2018.

-FDA Potential Signals of Serious Risks/New Safety Information Identified from the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS). Scroll to bottom of page for list of [quarterly reports](#).

-Are there any drugs or drug classes that you feel should be removed from the market? [Answer our quick poll](#)

-[MedlinePlus](#) description of Cipro, a fluoroquinolon, including new warnings. Cipro is used for serious infections ranging from pneumonia to typhoid fever, plague and inhalation anthrax.

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