DRUG SAFETY

Heparin recalled by FDA because of contamination

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The Food and Drug Administration announced a nationwide recall late Friday of seven lots of the blood thinner heparin made by B. Braun Medical Inc. because of concerns that the product may be contaminated with trace amounts of the same substance that was found to be in the 2008 heparin recall.

The heparin was manufactured in 2008 and will expire on Oct. 31, 2010, and Nov. 30, 2010 (identifying details below).The FDA said people who have heparin from the recalled lots should discontinue use immediately. Here is the lot number and other identifying information for the recalled heparin:

Product Name	Catalog Number	Lot Number	Manufacture Date	Expiration Date
25,000 Units Heparin in 5% Dextrose Injection, 50 Units/mL	P5771	J8D674	4/15/2008	10/31/2010
1,000 Units Heparin in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 2 Units/mL	P8721	J8D676	4/17/2008	10/31/2010
1,000 Units Heparin in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 2 Units/mL	P8721	J8D677	4/17/2008	10/31/2010
1,000 Units Heparin in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 2 Units/mL	P8721	J8D702	4/30/2008	10/31/2010
1,000 Units Heparin in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 2 Units/mL	P8721	J8D703	4/30/2008 – 5/1/2008	10/31/2010
25,000 Units Heparin in 5% Dextrose Injection, 50 Units/mL	P5771	J8E462	5/8/2008	11/30/2010
1,000 Units Heparin in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, 2 Units/mL	P8721	J8E539	5/15/2008	11/30/2010

If you have suffered adverse events or side effects related to the recalled heparin, the FDA encourages you to report it to its MedWatch program.

—Steve Mitchell, associate editor, Consumer Reports Health Best Buy Drugs

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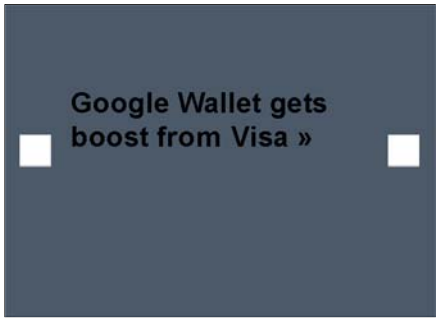

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