Indian Health Service
National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
Medication Update

*April 12, 2023*

# FDA Announces Decision to Withdraw Approval of Makena® (hydroxyprogesterone caproate injection)

On April 6, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the final decision to withdraw approval of Makena® (hydroxyprogesterone caproate injection)—a drug that had been approved under the accelerated approval pathway. This drug was approved to reduce the risk of preterm birth in women pregnant with one baby who have a history of spontaneous preterm birth. The decision was issued jointly by the FDA Commissioner and Chief Scientist. ***Effective April 6, 2023, Makena® and its generics are no longer approved and cannot lawfully be distributed in interstate commerce.***

## Background:

The FDA approved Makena® under the accelerated approval pathway in 2011, based on a determination that the sponsor had demonstrated a drug effect on an intermediate clinical endpoint that was reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit. The agency's approval included a requirement that the sponsor conduct a post marketing confirmatory study. The ensuing confirmatory study did not verify clinical benefit and the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) proposed withdrawing the drug's approval in 2020. The sponsor requested a hearing, which was held in October 2022.

Following the hearing, the FDA Commissioner and Chief Scientist reviewed the record for this matter, including the submissions by CDER and sponsor Covis Pharma, public comments to the docket, the transcript of the hearing and the Presiding Officer's report. Based on that review, they have decided to withdraw approval of Makena® and generic versions of Makena® (hydroxyprogesterone caproate injection).

## Additional considerations:

FDA has withdrawn the approvals of Makena® and its generics but recognizes that a limited supply of these drugs has already been distributed, including to physicians' offices and pharmacies. FDA acknowledges that some health care providers might continue to prescribe or administer that limited remaining supply to their patients. However, it is recommended that health care practitioners consider FDA's conclusion that these drug products are not shown to be effective for the indication for which they were approved and do not have benefits that outweigh their risks to patients.

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology has issued Updated Clinical Guidance for the use of progesterone supplementation for the prevention of recurrent preterm birth.[3] In addition, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine has issued a Special Statement in response to the FDA's withdrawal of 17-alpha hydroxyprogesterone caproate.[4]

**References**:
1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA Commissioner and Chief Scientist Announce Decision to Withdraw Approval of Makena. Published April 6, 2023.
2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Makena (hydroxyprogesterone caproate injection) Information, Published April 6, 2023.
3. American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Updated Clinical Guidance for the Use of Progesterone Supplementation for the Prevention of Recurrent Preterm Birth.
4. Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Special Statement: Response to the FDA's withdrawal of 17-alpha hydroxyprogesterone caproate.