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# Child-Resistant Packaging Statements in Drug Product Labeling Guidance for Industry

## *DRAFT GUIDANCE*

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)**

**August 2017**

**Labeling**

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# Child-Resistant Packaging Statements in Drug Product Labeling

## Guidance for Industry

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1 **Child-Resistant Packaging Statements in Drug Product Labeling**  
2 **Guidance for Industry<sup>1</sup>**  
3

4  
5 This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug  
6 Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic. It does not create any rights for any person and is not  
7 binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the  
8 applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible  
9 for this guidance as listed on the title page.  
10

11  
12  
13 **I. INTRODUCTION**  
14

15 This guidance is intended to assist applicants, manufacturers, packagers, and distributors  
16 (collectively referred to as firms) who choose to include child-resistant packaging (CRP)  
17 statements in their drug product<sup>2</sup> labeling. The guidance discusses what information should be  
18 included to support CRP statements in labeling for new drug applications (NDAs), abbreviated  
19 new drug applications (ANDAs), biologic license applications (BLAs), and supplements to these  
20 applications. In addition to recommendations for labeling of prescription drug products, this  
21 guidance also includes recommendations for labeling both for nonprescription drug products<sup>3</sup>  
22 approved under an NDA or ANDA and those that are marketed under the Over-the-Counter  
23 (OTC) Drug Review. This guidance is intended to help ensure that such labeling is clear, useful,  
24 informative, and, to the extent possible, consistent in content and format.<sup>4</sup>  
25

26 In general, FDA's guidance documents do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities.  
27 Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only  
28 as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of  
29 the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but  
30 not required.  
31  
32

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<sup>1</sup> This guidance has been prepared by the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration.

<sup>2</sup> References to drugs and biological products include drugs approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C) and biological products licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) that are drugs. For the purposes of this guidance, *drug product* or *drug* will be used to refer to human prescription drug and biological products that are regulated as drugs.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this guidance, the term nonprescription drug products refers to over-the-counter (OTC) drug products.

<sup>4</sup> This guidance is intended to apply to FDA-regulated drug products that bear CRP statements, regardless of whether CRP is required for such products under 16 CFR 1700. For example, bulk packages of prescription drugs that are shipped to pharmacies for repackaging by a pharmacist are not required to utilize CRP, but a firm may nevertheless choose to use CRP (and a CRP statement) for such drugs. 16 CFR 1701.1.

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### 33 **II. DISCUSSION**

34

35 In 1970, the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) was enacted to protect children (under 5  
36 years of age) from unintentional exposure to household substances including food, drugs, and  
37 cosmetics.<sup>5</sup> Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), a drug that has  
38 packaging or labeling that is in violation of a regulation issued pursuant to section 3 or 4 of the  
39 PPPA is deemed to be misbranded.<sup>6</sup> FDA was responsible for enforcing the PPPA until 1973,  
40 when jurisdiction was transferred to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).<sup>7</sup>  
41 Because of FDA's authority to regulate labeling for prescription and nonprescription drug  
42 products, if firms choose to make statements in their labeling for such products about child-  
43 resistant packaging, such statements must comply with FDA's statutory and regulatory  
44 requirements.<sup>8</sup>

45

46 CPSC's regulations list "special packaging standards"<sup>9,10</sup> (also referred to herein as child-  
47 resistant packaging, or CRP) for a wide range of household products, including most oral  
48 prescription drugs and many nonprescription drug products.<sup>11</sup> There are different ways to make  
49 packaging child-resistant, with the most common forms being a child-resistant closure (e.g., a  
50 "safety cap") and certain unit-dose blister packaging (e.g., puncture-resistant and peel-push  
51 blisters). However, not all container closures (i.e., packaging components that contain and  
52 protect drug products), including unit of use packaging, are child-resistant. Further, "child-  
53 resistant" should not be equated with "child-proof," because CRP is not designed to completely  
54 eliminate the possibility of an accidental pediatric ingestion. It can only impede access to  
55 harmful products.

56

57 Child-resistant packaging is regarded as an important public health safety tool for avoiding  
58 harmful outcomes related to unsupervised pediatric ingestions.<sup>12</sup> However, the use of the child-  
59 resistant packaging is also recognized by public health experts as only one component of  
60 preventing these events. Public health campaigns emphasize the need for consumer education on  
61 safe storage practices for medications.<sup>13</sup> When medications are stored in reach and sight of  
62 children, children are able to gain access to and defeat the child-resistant closure in some  
63 instances, thereby reducing the effectiveness of the packaging measure. Therefore, FDA

---

<sup>5</sup> Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (PPPA), (Pub. L. 91-601, 84 Stat. 1670-74), enacted December 30, 1970.

<sup>6</sup> See FD&C Act, § 502(p).

<sup>7</sup> Consumer Product Safety Act, Public Law 92-573; 86 Stat. 1207, October 27, 1972, Sec. 30.

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., FD&C Act § 502(a), (c).

<sup>9</sup> See definitions in section 2 (4) of the PPPA.

<sup>10</sup> *Special packaging* and *child-resistant packaging* (CRP) are used interchangeably in this guidance.

<sup>11</sup> See 16 CFR 1700 for substances requiring special packaging and the relevant packaging standards and testing procedures.

<sup>12</sup> Early studies in the 1960s demonstrated nearly a tenfold reduction in unsupervised pediatric ingestions with medicines with special packaging distributed from the Fort Lewis-McChord Air Force Base in Washington. Subsequent research on effectiveness has been published, and in 2005 CPSC estimated that special packaging has saved the lives of more than a thousand children. See <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Regulations-Laws--Standards/Statutes/Poison-Prevention-Packaging-Act/>.

<sup>13</sup> As an example, see the Up and Away Campaign led by the Centers for Disease Control at [www.upandaway.org](http://www.upandaway.org).

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64 advocates that all drugs, irrespective of the type of packaging, be stored safely out of reach and  
65 sight of children to further the overall public health efforts to address this safety issue.

66  
67 FDA regulates certain aspects of drug products' container closure systems related to safety and  
68 efficacy as part of the drug application review and approval process.<sup>14,15</sup> During FDA's review  
69 of an NDA, ANDA, or BLA (and nonprescription drugs marketed under an application), various  
70 data related to container closure systems are evaluated, including, for example, the type of  
71 closure employed, the stability of the product in the container closure system, and whether the  
72 closure design is suitable for the product. FDA's review does not include evaluation of testing  
73 reports to determine whether a product meets the applicable standards for special packaging set  
74 forth in the PPPA and its implementing regulations.

75  
76 With respect to nonprescription drug products marketed under the OTC Drug Review, FDA does  
77 not review data related to container closure systems, as applications for individual drug products  
78 under the OTC Drug Review are not submitted to FDA for review or approval. In addition,  
79 although manufacturers of nonprescription products marketed under the OTC Drug Review must  
80 comply with the labeling requirements under 21 CFR 201.66, they are not required to submit  
81 labeling to FDA prior to marketing. In this guidance, we recommend text<sup>16</sup> that may be  
82 appropriate to consider when including CRP statements on the containers and packaging of  
83 products marketed under the OTC Drug Review.

### 84 85 **III. LABELING**

86  
87 Because healthcare professionals and consumers may not be able to determine on visual  
88 inspection whether packaging is child-resistant, a labeling statement may help to identify this  
89 attribute. As a general matter, if a drug product is packaged using CRP and the firm elects to  
90 include labeling statements that identify the product as packaged with CRP, the CRP should be  
91 described using words and not abbreviations (e.g., "CRP," "CRC," or "CR") or symbols because  
92 abbreviations and symbols may not be readily understood. Because it is important to clarify that  
93 CRP statements in labeling describe how the product is supplied from the manufacturer, versus  
94 how the product is dispensed by a pharmacist, the term "supplied" as opposed to "available" is  
95 preferred.

96  
97 Section 502(a) of the FD&C Act provides that a drug is deemed to be misbranded if its labeling  
98 is false or misleading in any particular. In general, to ensure that CRP statements on labeling are  
99 not false or misleading, such statements should only be used when the drug product packaging

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<sup>14</sup> FDA does not regulate retail pharmacy vials or other containers used by pharmacies to repackage drugs to dispense to patients.

<sup>15</sup> See FDA guidance for industry *Container Closure Systems for Packaging Human Drugs and Biologics*. This guidance is available on the Internet at <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm> under Guidances (Drugs).

<sup>16</sup> See section III. B.

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100 has been shown to comply with the applicable CPSC regulatory standards and test procedures for  
101 CRP.<sup>17,18</sup>

102  
103 We provide additional recommendations for the labeling of prescription drug products and  
104 nonprescription drug products below.

### **A. Prescription Drug Products**

#### *1. Prescribing Information*

109  
110 If a firm chooses to include information about CRP in the prescribing information, such  
111 information should appear in the HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING section as  
112 this is generally where practitioners look to ascertain information about a product's packaging. It  
113 is important that the CRP statements be linked clearly to a particular package, especially when  
114 multiple packages are supplied and not all have been demonstrated to be child-resistant.

115  
116 Examples include the following:

#### HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

- Drug X is supplied in 30 g, 4 oz. tubes with a child-resistant cap.
- Drug X is supplied as child-resistant sachets.
- The 50 mg tablet is film-coated, round, biconvex, pink, scored, and is debossed with XXX on one side and scored on the other side.  
Bottles of 30 with child-resistant closure, NDC xxxx-xxx-xx  
Bottles of 60 with child-resistant closure, NDC xxxx-xxx-xx  
Bottles of 500, NDC xxxx-xxx-xx”

#### *2. Patient Information*

130  
131  
132 If a firm chooses to include information about CRP for a prescription drug product whose  
133 commercial container bearing the CRP is designed to be dispensed directly to patients, the CRP  
134 information should be included in the patient labeling (e.g., medication guides, patient package

---

<sup>17</sup> See 16 CFR 1700.15 for poison prevention packaging standards and 16 CFR 1700.20 for special packaging testing procedures. In order to make household substances that are subject to the PPPA's special packaging requirements readily available to elderly or handicapped persons who are unable to use those substances in special packaging, section 4(a) of the PPPA authorizes manufacturers and packers to package such substances in non-complying packaging of a single size provided that: 1) complying packaging is also supplied, and 2) the non-complying packages are conspicuously labeled to indicate that they should not be used in households where young children are present. In order to comply with CPSC regulations, any non-complying packages a firm elects to market pursuant to section 4(a) of the PPPA must bear the labeling described in 16 CFR 1700.5.

<sup>18</sup> We note that if a product is subject to the special packaging requirements of the PPPA, but its packaging or labeling is in violation of applicable regulations issued pursuant to section 3 or 4 of the PPPA, it may also be misbranded under section 502(p) of the FD&C Act.

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135 inserts). Information about the CRP in patient labeling should appear under a heading titled  
136 “How should I store Drug X?” The description should be consistent with the CRP statement(s)  
137 included in the HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING section of the full prescribing  
138 information.

139  
140 Examples of the CRP description on the patient labeling include the following:

141  
142 How should I store Drug X?

- 143
- 144 • Drug X comes in a child-resistant package.
- 145
- 146 • Drug X comes in a sealed child-resistant foil pouch.
- 147

148 The following statement should also appear at the end of the “How should I store  
149 Drug X?” section:

- 150
- 151 • Keep Drug X and all medicines out of the reach of children.
- 152

### 153 3. *Carton Labeling and Container Labels*

154  
155 If a firm chooses to include information about the CRP on carton labeling and container labels, it  
156 may do so as long as there is sufficient space to include such information in addition to  
157 information required to be included.<sup>19</sup> If space permits, a firm may also include a storage  
158 statement in conjunction with the CRP statement to recommend that the package be kept out of  
159 reach of children, particularly for those packages which may be dispensed directly to patients.  
160 Statements about CRP are most appropriately displayed on the side panels of the carton labeling  
161 and container labels in close proximity to storage information.

162  
163 Examples include the following:

- 164
- 165 • This package is child-resistant. Store at 20°C-25°C (68°F-77°F); excursions  
166 permitted to 15°C-30°C (59°F-66°F).
- 167
- 168 • This package is child-resistant. **Keep out of reach of children.** Store at  
169 20°C-25°C (68°F-77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C-30°C (59°F-66°F).
- 170

## 171 **B. Nonprescription Drug Products**

### 172 173 1. *Drug Facts Labeling*

174  
175 FDA regulations do not specify where to place CRP statements on labeling for nonprescription  
176 drug products. If firms choose to include the statement in the drug facts labeling (DFL), it

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<sup>19</sup> If the container label is too small, see 21 CFR 201.10(i).



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177 should appear under the subheading “Other information” with the storage statement.<sup>20</sup>  
178 Placement of CRP statements on the labeling must not interfere with required information on the  
179 labeling.<sup>21</sup>

180  
181 “Other information” is the subheading used for additional information that is not included under  
182 the other DFL subheadings, but which is required or is made optional under an OTC drug  
183 monograph(s), other nonprescription drug regulation(s), approved drug application, statute, or  
184 guidance. A CRP statement would be considered to be “additional information”<sup>22</sup> and as such  
185 would follow any required statements.

186  
187 The following examples illustrate types of information considered to be “other information,”  
188 including a CRP statement:

- 189  
190
- Read the directions and warnings before use.
  - Keep the carton. It contains important information.
  - This package is child-resistant.
  - Store at 20-25°C (68-77°F) and protect from moisture.
- 191  
192  
193  
194

### 2. *Carton Labeling and Container Labels*

195  
196  
197 Even if the CRP statement(s) are included in the DFL, their placement on the carton labeling  
198 and/or container labeling outside the DFL is still optional. And, if the CRP statement is not  
199 included in the DFL, it is still permissible to include a CRP statement(s) on the carton labeling  
200 and/or the container labeling outside the DFL, space permitting.<sup>23</sup> Appropriate text could read  
201 “this package is child-resistant.” For small containers and/or cartons, appropriate text could read  
202 “child-resistant package.” Although any available panel or part of a panel, outside the DFL, is  
203 appropriate for this use, consumers may find this information to be more useful if displayed on  
204 the principal display panel(s).

## 205 206 **IV. PROCESS FOR INCLUDING STATEMENTS REGARDING CRP ON THE** 207 **LABELING**

208  
209 If firms choose to include CRP statements on their product labeling, they should verify in writing  
210 for FDA that the CRP meets the standards set forth by the CPSC in 16 CFR 1700, as applicable,  
211 as discussed below.<sup>24,25</sup> FDA also recommends that firms retain the data demonstrating that the  
212 packaging meets applicable CPSC standards.

213

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<sup>20</sup> See § 201.66(c)(7).

<sup>21</sup> See FD&C Act § 502(c).

<sup>22</sup> See § 201.66(c)(7)(iii).

<sup>23</sup> In such circumstances, we encourage applicants to discuss their plans with FDA.

<sup>24</sup> The written verification discussed in this guidance is intended for FDA only, and is separate from the certification required to be provided to CPSC under 15 USC 2063 and 16 CFR 1110.

<sup>25</sup> Firms should provide such written verification to FDA to support CRP statements even in circumstances where they have elected to use CRP for products that are not subject to the special packaging requirements of 16 CFR 1700.

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214           **A.     Prescription Drug Products and Nonprescription Drug Products Approved**  
215           **Under an Application**

216  
217           **1.     Original NDA, BLA, or ANDA submission**

218  
219     In an original NDA, BLA, or ANDA submission, written verification that the CRP meets the  
220     CPSC’s standards under 16 CFR 1700 should appear in the container closure section of Module  
221     3 of the Electronic Common Technical Document (eCTD). An example of the written  
222     verification may be “We verify in this submission that the following package (or packages) meet  
223     CPSC’s standards under 16 CFR 1700.”

224  
225           **2.     Postapproval Change**

226  
227     If there is a postapproval change to the package or labeling of a product approved under an  
228     NDA, BLA, or ANDA, refer to appropriate regulations and guidances to determine the  
229     appropriate pathway to implement these changes.<sup>26</sup> Submissions for changes to add CRP  
230     statements on labeling should verify in writing that the CRP meets the CPSC’s standards under  
231     16 CFR 1700 and should appear in the detailed container closure description section of Module 3  
232     in the eCTD. An example of the written verification may be “We verify in this submission that  
233     the following package (or packages) meet CPSC’s standards under 16 CFR 1700.”

234  
235           **B.     Nonprescription Drug Products Marketed Under the OTC Drug Review**

236  
237     There is no defined process for submission of a written verification to FDA that a  
238     nonprescription drug product marketed under an OTC monograph meets CPSC’s standards under  
239     16 CFR 1700. However, if you elect to include a CRP statement on the labeling of a  
240     nonprescription drug product marketed under an OTC monograph, you should retain the data  
241     demonstrating that the packaging meets applicable CPSC standards and follow the labeling  
242     recommendations in this guidance.

243

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<sup>26</sup> See 21 CFR 314.70 and 601.12 for reporting requirements for changes to approved applications for drug products and licensed biological products.