
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DRAFT GUIDANCE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

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 Industry¹**
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5 This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug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 product² 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 products³
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.⁴
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

¹ 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.

² 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.

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

⁴ 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.⁵ 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.⁶ FDA was responsible for enforcing the PPPA until 1973,
40 when jurisdiction was transferred to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).⁷
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.⁸

45

46 CPSC's regulations list "special packaging standards"^{9,10} (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.¹¹ 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.¹² 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.¹³ 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

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

⁶ See FD&C Act, § 502(p).

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

⁸ See, e.g., FD&C Act § 502(a), (c).

⁹ See definitions in section 2 (4) of the PPPA.

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

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

¹² 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/>.

¹³ As an example, see the Up and Away Campaign led by the Centers for Disease Control at 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.^{14,15} 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 text¹⁶ 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

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

¹⁵ 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).

¹⁶ 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.^{17,18}

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

105
106 **A. Prescription Drug Products**

107
108 *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:

117
118 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

- 119
120 • Drug X is supplied in 30 g, 4 oz. tubes with a child-resistant cap.
121
122 • Drug X is supplied as child-resistant sachets.
123
124 • The 50 mg tablet is film-coated, round, biconvex, pink, scored, and is
125 debossed with XXX on one side and scored on the other side.
126 Bottles of 30 with child-resistant closure, NDC xxxx-xxx-xx
127 Bottles of 60 with child-resistant closure, NDC xxxx-xxx-xx
128 Bottles of 500, NDC xxxx-xxx-xx”
129

130 *2. Patient Information*

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

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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

¹⁹ 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.²⁰
178 Placement of CRP statements on the labeling must not interfere with required information on the
179 labeling.²¹

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”²² 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.
 - 191 • Keep the carton. It contains important information.
 - 192 • This package is child-resistant.
 - 193 • Store at 20-25°C (68-77°F) and protect from moisture.

194
195 2. *Carton Labeling and Container Labels*

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.²³ 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.^{24,25} FDA also recommends that firms retain the data demonstrating that the
212 packaging meets applicable CPSC standards.

213

²⁰ See § 201.66(c)(7).

²¹ See FD&C Act § 502(c).

²² See § 201.66(c)(7)(iii).

²³ In such circumstances, we encourage applicants to discuss their plans with FDA.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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.²⁶ 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

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