



**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION  
AND NOTICE OF RECALLED  
PRODUCTS**

December 15, 2008

Re: Oral Sodium Phosphates Solutions for Bowel Cleansing

Dear Pharmacist:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that, effective December 12, 2008, C.B. Fleet Company, Inc. ("C.B. Fleet"), ceased distribution and initiated a voluntary recall of the following oral sodium phosphates solution products ("OSP products") which have been available over-the-counter and used for bowel cleansing prior to colonoscopy and other medical procedures:

**Fleet® Phospho-soda® Oral Saline Laxative**  
**Fleet® Phospho-soda® EZ-PREP™ Bowel Cleansing System**

**Your company should have received or will be receiving a letter from C.B. Fleet directing that these products be removed from the retail shelves and returned to C.B. Fleet or the wholesaler from whom you purchased them.**

In an FDA Safety Alert dated December 11, 2008, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"), determined that in light of the risk of acute kidney injury, OSP products should only be marketed as prescription drugs when used for bowel cleansing and that consumers should not be using over-the-counter products for bowel cleansing. The FDA stated:

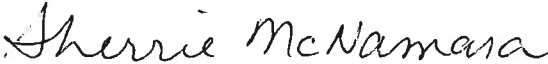
FDA has become aware of reports of acute phosphate nephropathy, a type of acute kidney injury, associated with the use of oral sodium phosphate products (OSP) for bowel cleansing prior to colonoscopy or other procedures. ...

Acute phosphate nephropathy is a form of acute kidney injury that is associated with deposits of calcium-phosphate crystals in the renal tubules that may result in permanent renal function impairment. Acute phosphate nephropathy is a rare, serious adverse event that has been associated with the use of OSPs. ...

[I]n light of the risk of acute phosphate nephropathy, over-the-counter laxative OSP products should not be used for bowel cleansing. Consumers should only use OSPs for bowel cleansing pursuant to a prescription from a healthcare professional.

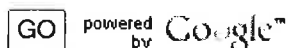
C.B. Fleet has therefore stopped product sales, initiated a voluntary recall of these products from OTC retail distribution, and directed pharmacies to remove the products from their shelves and wholesalers to return all inventory of the products to Fleet. In a separate letter, C.B. Fleet has requested that healthcare professionals cease directing use of Fleet® Phospho-soda® and Fleet® Phospho-soda® EZ-PREP™ for bowel cleansing, and that customers not purchase the products. **If a customer requests an oral sodium phosphate product for use in connection with bowel cleansing, they should be directed to their physician to prescribe an alternative bowel cleansing preparation appropriate for them.**

A copy of the FDA Safety Alert is enclosed. Complete information about FDA's actions can be found on FDA's website at [www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/OSP\\_solution/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/OSP_solution/default.htm).

Sincerely,  
  
Sherrie McNamara, RN, MSN, MBA  
Director of Medical Affairs and Product Safety

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration****CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH**[FDA Home Page](#) | [CDER Home Page](#) | [CDER Site Info](#) | [Contact CDER](#) | [What's New @ CDER](#)[CDER Home](#)[About CDER](#)[Drug Information](#)[Regulatory Guidance](#)[CDER Calendar](#)[Specific Audiences](#)[CDER Archives](#)

Search



## Oral Sodium Phosphate (OSP) Products for Bowel Cleansing (marketed as Visicol and OsmoPrep, and oral sodium phosphate products available without a prescription)

### FDA ALERT [12/11/2008]

FDA has become aware of reports of acute phosphate nephropathy, a type of acute kidney injury, associated with the use of oral sodium phosphate products (OSP) for bowel cleansing prior to colonoscopy or other procedures. These products include the prescription products, Visicol and OsmoPrep, and OSPs available over-the-counter without a prescription as laxatives (e.g., Fleet Phospho-soda). In some cases when used for bowel cleansing, these serious adverse events have occurred in patients without identifiable factors that would put them at risk for developing acute kidney injury. We cannot rule out, however, that some of these patients were dehydrated prior to ingestion of OSPs or they did not drink sufficient fluids after ingesting OSP.

Acute phosphate nephropathy is a form of acute kidney injury that is associated with deposits of calcium-phosphate crystals in the renal tubules that may result in permanent renal function impairment. Acute phosphate nephropathy is a rare, serious adverse event that has been associated with the use of OSPs. The occurrence of these events was previously described in an *Information for Healthcare Professionals* sheet and an FDA Science Paper issued in May 2006. Additional cases of acute phosphate nephropathy have been reported to FDA and described in the literature since these were issued.



Individuals who appear to have an increased risk of acute phosphate nephropathy following the use of OSPs include persons: who are over age 55; who are hypovolemic or have decreased intravascular volume; who have baseline kidney disease, bowel obstruction, or active colitis; and who are using medications that affect renal perfusion or function (such as diuretics, angiotensin converting enzyme [ACE] inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers [ARBs], and possibly nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs]).

As a result of new safety information received, FDA is requiring the manufacturer of Visicol and OsmoPrep, the two OSPs available by prescription only, to add a Boxed Warning to the labeling for these products. FDA is also requiring that the manufacturer develop and implement a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS), which will include a *Medication Guide*, to ensure that the benefits of these products outweigh the risk of acute phosphate nephropathy, and to conduct a postmarketing clinical trial to further assess the risk of acute kidney injury with use of these products.



FDA acknowledges that OSP products, in addition to use for bowel preparation, have a long history of safe use as non-prescription products as laxatives (i.e. for relief of constipation) and accordingly, they will continue to be available over-the-counter for this use. However, in light of the risk of acute phosphate nephropathy, over-the-counter laxative OSP products should not be used for bowel cleansing. Consumers should only use OSPs for bowel cleansing pursuant to a prescription from a healthcare professional. FDA intends to amend the labeling conditions for OSP products available in the OTC setting to address this concern with bowel cleansing use and to improve the safe use of OSPs that are available over-the-counter. FDA's amendment to remove the professional labeling for bowel cleansing for these OSPs available over-the-counter will be published in a future *Federal Register* notice.

*This information reflects FDA's current analysis of data concerning these drugs. FDA intends to update this sheet when additional information or analyses become available..*

### **Healthcare Professional Information**

- [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies \(REMS\)](#) 
- [Labeling for Visicol from Drugs@FDA](#)
- [Labeling for Osmoprep from Drugs@FDA](#)
- [Labeling for Fleet Phospho-Soda](#)  [external link]

### **Other Information**

- [FDA News](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Citizen Petitions](#)
  - [Natasha Leskovsek, September 2007 \(Docket No. FDA-2007-P-0345\)](#) 
  - [C.B. Fleet, Inc., June 2003 \(Docket No. FDA-1978-N-0021\)](#) 

### **Historical Information**

### **Report Adverse Events to MedWatch**

[↑ Back to Top](#)   [↖ Back to Drug Information](#)

 PDF requires the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

Date created: December 11, 2008

---

[CDER Home Page](#) | [CDER Site Info](#) | [Contact CDER](#) | [What's New @ CDER](#)  
[FDA Home Page](#) | [Search FDA Site](#) | [FDA A-Z Index](#) | [Contact FDA](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [HHS Home Page](#)

FDA/Center for Drug Evaluation and Research