

## DRUG THERAPY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION

TO: [PRESCRIBER]

FROM:

DATE:

PATIENT:

FACILITY:

**RE: New order for [SPECIFY PROPOXYPHENE PRODUCT]**

[PATIENT NAME] was recently prescribed [MEDICATION NAME AND SIG]. Propoxyphene has been identified by geriatric experts as potentially inappropriate for use by adults aged 65 and older<sup>1-2</sup> due to its opioid-related adverse effects and questionable efficacy. Propoxyphene's active metabolite has cardiotoxic, proarrhythmic effects, and CNS toxicities, as well as a long elimination half-life (30-36 hours), which poses a high risk of accumulation if given repeatedly; older adults are especially prone to increased serum concentrations or reduced elimination.

Propoxyphene's CNS-related side effects of dizziness, sedation, and lightheadedness may increase the risk of falls; research has identified propoxyphene use as a risk factor for hip fractures.<sup>3-4</sup> In addition, several studies have demonstrated that propoxyphene is no more effective than acetaminophen, aspirin, codeine, or ibuprofen in reducing pain, and may even be inferior.<sup>5-9</sup> The lack of advantage of propoxyphene over other analgesics in clinical efficacy, together with its potential for opioid-related adverse effects, has resulted in widespread recommendations against its use in the elderly population.<sup>10-12</sup>

REFERENCES (See back of page)

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please consider discontinuing [MEDICATION NAME].

Start [ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION].

Thank You. \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Phone

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Please consider and respond to recommendation, sign and return to the Director of Nursing.

I am in agreement with the above recommendations \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO. If yes, please implement recommendation.

Additional Comments:

Physician's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

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