**Patient Safety: NDMA Contamination in Drug Recalls: What Do We Need to Know?**

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this continuing education activity, the learner will be able to

1. Describe details of recent ranitidine and metformin drug recalls
2. Differentiate between categories of drug recalls
3. Identify when referral to a pharmacist is appropriate

**Pharmacy Technician Post-test Questions**

**1. Mr. Taylor approaches the pharmacy counter looking for a medication to treat his acid reflux. He has been taking over-the-counter ranitidine for many years, but due to the recent recall, he feels it is unsafe continuing to take it. He has also tried antacids without relief. What do you recommend to Mr. Taylor?**

a. Tell Mr. Taylor to continue taking the ranitidine he has at home because it was not recalled and is only on backorder

b. Instruct Mr. Taylor to contact his prescriber because you are unsure of the right medication to recommend

c. Refer Mr. Taylor to the pharmacist who can recommend a therapeutically-equivalent medication to treat his acid reflux

**2. The FDA has classified ranitidine as a Class II recall. Which description below appropriately classifies a Class II recall?**

a. Can cause non-life-threatening adverse events, or a slight threat of a serious event

b. Most severe and use of the product might lead to serious health problems or death

c. Least severe and less likely to cause harm; often related to a labeling concern

**3. Mrs. Banks is picking up her prescription for metformin ER at the pharmacy, and she is concerned about a recent metformin recall she heard about from a friend. You check the lot numbers and confirm that the manufacturer Mrs. Banks takes was not recalled. She asks you if she should continue taking her metformin or to stop taking the medication. What is the best response to tell Mrs. Banks?**

a. “I am not sure if you should continue or stop taking your medication, but I can let the pharmacist know you would like to speak to him/her. Do you mind waiting a few moments for the pharmacist to answer your question?”

b. “You’re right, Mrs. Banks. There has been a recall on metformin medications, but not all the manufacturers were affected. You should still continue to take your medication. Would you like to speak to the pharmacist about the different options available to you?”

c. “You’re right, there has been a recall on all metformin medications. You should not pick up this medication and speak to your doctor right away about switching to an alternative medication."

**4. Which recall classification is reserved for those cases in which product use might lead to serious health problems or death?**

A. Class I

B. Class II

C. Class III

**5. Which of the following is a flaw in the FDA’s acceptable limit of NDMA per tablet or capsule?**

A. Some drugs are dosed multiple times per day, increasing daily exposure.

B. Lab technicians only tested one strength of each manufacturer’s tablets.

C. The FDA’s one-and-done testing strategy only tests one dosage unit of each strength.