UPDATES

Health notices · Tuesday 13 October

3 notices from the agencies today, in plain words, each with the original linked.

FDA approval for isotretinoin capsules for severe nodular acne

FDA · Approval

If you have severe nodular acne and it has not responded to conventional treatment (including systemic antibiotics), isotretinoin capsules may be an option.

Isotretinoin can cause life-threatening birth defects, so it is indicated only for patients who are not pregnant.

The notice also says isotretinoin should be reserved because of significant adverse effects, and treatment is intended as a course of therapy. If a second course is needed, it should not start until after a waiting period.

Read the original notice

Recall for estradiol gel packets found empty or partially full

FDA · Recall

If you use estradiol gel, the US Food and Drug Administration says some packets may be empty or only partly full due to a defective container.

This recall is listed as Class II and was published on 2026-10-07 for distribution nationwide in the USA.

If your estradiol gel packet looks empty or partly full, this could change how much medicine you actually receive compared with before.

Read the original notice

FDA approval of letrozole for certain breast cancer treatments

FDA · Approval

If you are a postmenopausal woman, the US Food and Drug Administration has approved letrozole (an aromatase inhibitor) for several hormone-receptor-related breast cancer

treatment settings.

The approval covers adjuvant (additional after primary treatment), extended adjuvant, and treatment of locally advanced or metastatic disease, when the breast cancer is hormone receptor positive or unknown.

What changes for you tomorrow depends on whether your clinician determines your breast cancer is in one of these categories and whether you are postmenopausal.

Read the original notice

Where this comes from

- FDA approval for isotretinoin capsules for severe nodular acne

  US Food and Drug Administration - Drugs@FDA · https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=overview.process&ApplNo=207792
- Recall for estradiol gel packets found empty or partially full

  US Food and Drug Administration - enforcement report · https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/drug-recalls
- FDA approval of letrozole for certain breast cancer treatments

  US Food and Drug Administration - Drugs@FDA · https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=overview.process&ApplNo=220438