

Louisiana Pharmacists Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Louisiana Pharmacists Association Educates Consumers about Updated
Sunscreen Regulations**

New labeling and regulations regarding sunscreens are being slowly introduced in the United States. Patients should be educated about the updated FDA regulations regarding sunscreen products effective June 18, 2012. Completely new labels will begin to appear on products after December 17, 2012. Some of the labeling updates are as follows:

- Products listed as Broad Spectrum must provide protection against UVA and UVB radiation and will have a minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15. When used as directed, these products will protect against sunburn and can reduce the risk of early aging and skin cancer with higher SFP values positively correlating to higher levels of protection.
- Product labels not sold as Broad Spectrum and those having SPF values < 15 will inform consumers that the product has been shown to help protect against sunburn, but not early aging and skin cancer.
- Water resistance claims will be categorized as either 40 minutes or 80 minutes of SPF protection during normal swimming activity or sweating based on standard testing protocol.
- Claims regarding a product's ability to be waterproof or sweat proof or to provide complete sun block are not allowed. Products cannot claim to provide immediate protection or greater than two hours' protection without reapplication unless approval has been obtained.

Due to the lack of data supporting the additional protection obtained from products with an SPF greater than 50, the FDA has proposed that products be labeled with a maximum SPF of 50+. Essentially, the problem is that due to a number of factors, most products require reapplication after 2 hours. However, the higher SPF may give a false sense of extended protection leading to delayed reapplication.

In addition, the following tips should be provided:

- Limit sun exposure during the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Reapply sunscreen at a minimum of every 2 hours.
- Select sunscreen that is labeled Broad Spectrum with an SPF value of 15 or higher for maximum protection.
- Wear clothing that covers and shades the body.

This information should help provide patients with the tools they need to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm258416.htm?utm_campaign=Google2&utm_source=fdaSearch&utm_medium=website&utm_term=consumer%20updates%20sunscreen&utm_content=1

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Wilbur and Mildred Robichaux Endowed Professorship

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The Louisiana Pharmacists Association, established in 1882, strives to promote the interests of all pharmacists of the State of Louisiana. For more information about the LPA and its benefits, contact Julie Fuselier or Phyllis Perron, LPA Co-Executive Directors at 225/346-6883 or visit our website at www.louisianapharmacists.com.

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