



**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20220324-00563-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Thursday, March 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Adverse Events Associated with Tianeptine, an
Unapproved Drug

Introduction: Tianeptine is an antidepressant drug structurally similar to tricyclic antidepressants that is not approved by the FDA for any medical use in the US. It is known to be an opioid receptor agonist, and adverse events and deaths have been reported from the use of tianeptine. The FDA has warned that many companies are illegally marketing and selling products containing tianeptine to the public with unproven beneficial claims (i.e., dietary supplement, treatment for anxiety, depression, or opioid disorder). Unfortunately, it is easily available for purchase online or in gas stations and convenience stores. Common names for this drug include ZaZa, Tianna, and Red Dawn.

People with a history of opioid use disorder or dependence are at particular risk for using tianeptine and may experience serious side effects, which can mimic opioid toxicity and withdrawal. Serious effects may include agitation, drowsiness, confusion, tachycardia, hypertension, coma, and death.

Reported Adverse Events-Mississippi: Recently the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has received reports from Mississippi providers of several patients with tianeptine dependency that have required management for significant withdrawal symptoms.

The Mississippi Poison Control Center (PCC) has received 11 tianeptine exposure related calls since July 2020, with 9 occurring in 2021 and one so far in 2022. The age range in these reported cases is 32 to 46 years, with a median of 42 years; 55% of cases involve males. Forty-five percent (5/11) of the reports were related to CNS abnormalities (CNS depression, seizure, confusion, hallucinations, and/or withdrawal symptoms), 36% (4/11) had associated chest pain or hypertension and tachycardia, and 18% had diarrhea or nausea/vomiting. Four reported cases resulted in hospitalization. Seventy-three percent (8/11) of the cases reported a gas station as the source of drug acquisition, only one case reported obtaining the drug from an internet source.

Physician and Provider Recommendations: Obtaining a history of potential tianeptine exposure is vital in evaluating patients with opioid type withdrawal or toxicity.

Mississippi physicians, providers and hospitals that identify individuals with suspected toxicity from tianeptine exposure should:

- Report to the Mississippi Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.
- Report to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program ([MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program | FDA](#)):
 - Complete submit the report online ([MedWatch Online Voluntary Reporting Form \(fda.gov\)](#)), or

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- Download the Form ([MedWatch Forms for FDA Safety Reporting | FDA](#)) or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form sent to you in the mail, then complete and return to the address on the form or submit it by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178.

Resources:

- [Tianeptine Products Linked to Serious Harm, Overdoses, Death | FDA](#)
- [Characteristics of Tianeptine Exposures Reported to the National Poison Data System — United States, 2000–2017 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Regards,

Paul Byers
State Epidemiologist



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20220324-00563-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00563
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert



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Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).