

Drug company admits it misled doctors about risk of Risperdal

TRENTON, N.J. — The maker of a popular medicine for schizophrenia has notified doctors that it minimized potentially fatal safety risks and made misleading claims about the drug in promotional materials.

Janssen Pharmaceutica Products sent a two-page letter to the health-care community this week to clarify the risks of Risperdal, the leading drug used to combat schizophrenia and other types of psychotic disorders.

The letter stems from a directive issued last year by the Food and Drug Administration, which told several makers of anti-psychotic drugs to update their product labels.

Janssen complied in November 2003, but the FDA determined that the company's promotional materials still minimized the risk of strokes, diabetes and other potentially fatal complications.

The *Miami Herald* reported Saturday that a handful of boys in Florida developed lactating breasts after taking Risperdal, first marketed eight years ago.

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Thanks to Sylvia