



Memorandum

**U.S. Department
Of Transportation**
Office of Drug and Alcohol
Policy and Compliance

Subject: Chantix Notice

Date: June 5, 2008

From: Jim L. Swart, Acting Director
Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance

Reply to
Attn. of: ODAPC – S1
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202-366-3784

To: Lamar Allen, Drug and Alcohol Program Manager
Office of Safety
Federal Railroad Administration

As a result of a study linking use of the anti-smoking drug Chantix with safety issues, the Department of Transportation alerted DOT Agencies, asking them to be aware of the report's warnings and recommendations. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices released the results of a study last week that found evidence for the occurrence of seizures, loss of consciousness, heart attacks, vision problems, and various psychiatric instabilities in individuals who use Chantix. The study's web address is:
<http://www.ismp.org/docs/vareniclineStudy.asp>.

Consequently, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said [in part] to medical examiners, "While we do not name any medications, such as Chantix, in FMCSA regulations, it appears that medical examiners should not certify a driver taking Chantix because the medication may adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle." Earlier, the Federal Aviation Administration banned the drug for pilots and air traffic controllers.

Because some safety-sensitive transportation employees are not under medical standards, you have concurred with our office's developing the following statement about Chantix which you can disseminate to your industry.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reminds all transportation industries of the potential threat to public safety caused by the use of the anti-smoking drug Chantix. A recent independent study spoke of possible links to seizures, dizziness, heart irregularity, loss of consciousness, vision problems, diabetes, and more than 100 accidents. As a result, we strongly urge all transportation industry employers to include in their employee training materials appropriate information to address this issue. We also encourage employers to reiterate with their employees the need to report use of such medications when required by applicable DOT regulations or by company policies.

Your desire to make this statement available throughout your regulated industry is appreciated.