



MAY 23, 2011

HEALTH ADVISORY

FDA Warns Against Feeding SimplyThick To Premature Infants

Department of Health Asks Health-Care Providers To Report Any Suspected Cases

The North Dakota Department of Health is alerting physicians and other health-care providers that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning parents, caregivers and health-care providers not to feed the thickening agent SimplyThick to premature infants born before 37 weeks. There has been an association between this product and necrotizing enterocolitis, including several deaths nationwide.

The North Dakota Department of Health has not received any reports of necrotizing enterocolitis in the state, but is asking providers to report any suspected cases to the Department of Health. Reports can be made by calling 701.328.2378 or 1.800.472.2180.

More information can be found on the FDA's website at:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm256250.htm>.

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; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.