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**Press Statement
On
FDA ADVISORY ON ANTIDEPRESSANT USE IN CHILDREN
By Carden Johnston, MD, AAP President**

"The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages the manufacturers of 10 antidepressant drugs to swiftly adopt the label changes as requested today by the Food and Drug Administration. Stronger cautions and warnings will better inform pediatricians, psychiatrists, family physicians and other clinicians who prescribe these drugs to their patients.

"Today's action by the FDA is yet another step in an ongoing process to ensure that all the drugs prescribed to children are safe and effective. The AAP supports two federal laws that are increasing the testing of medicines prescribed to children: The Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act and the Pediatric Research Equity Act, also known as the Pediatric Rule. Getting medication properly studied and having labels changed to reflect new safety, efficacy and dosing information as soon as possible is a critical goal in pediatric treatment. In this particular case, the FDA reviewed the current data and determined that a prominent label warning was warranted given concerns, but no concrete evidence, about the drugs contributing to suicides or suicidal thoughts.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics appreciates the FDA's work, and will notify its membership of the need to closely monitor children with depression on this medication."

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.