All Articles

Cetirizine Recall 2026: What It Means for Multiple Medications

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KEY POINTS

- Brand-name Zyrtec is not part of this recall. Only four lots of generic cetirizine hydrochloride 5 mg tablets are affected.
- The recalled lots are GY825029, GY825030, GY825031, and GY825032, all with an October 2028 expiration date. They shipped between April and June 2026.
- The recall is due to potential cross-contamination with ranitidine, which could cause a serious reaction in people with a ranitidine hypersensitivity.
- Your pharmacy vial may not show the manufacturer's lot number. When in doubt, your pharmacist can check your fill directly.

If you take allergy medication, there's a cetirizine recall you should know about. In July 2026, Unique Pharmaceutical Laboratories voluntarily recalled four lots of Cetirizine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 5 mg after a pharmacy technician spotted red-flecked, discolored tablets during a routine prescription fill. The concern: potential cross-contamination with ranitidine, a different medication entirely. Brand-name Zyrtec was not affected.

Here's what was recalled, how to check, and how to build a system that works for every recall after this one.

What's Being Recalled (and What Isn't)

Although Cetirizine is a key ingredient in Zyrtec, the brand-name pills are not a part of this recall.

Unique Pharmaceutical Laboratories, a division of J.B. Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in Panoli, Gujarat, India, voluntarily recalled four lots of Cetirizine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 5 mg on July 18, 2026. Its primary brand-name product is Zyrtec, but it is widely available as a generic drug and in combination formulas distributed nationwide by Rising Pharma Holdings Inc. Only specific generic lots are affected.

The issue surfaced when a pharmacy technician noticed red dots and discoloration on tablets while counting them

for a prescription. That led to the discovery of potential cross-contamination with **ranitidine**, a heartburn medication once sold under the brand name Zantac. No adverse events had been reported as of the recall notice.

Check Your Bottle

Here's what to look out for

- **Product:** Cetirizine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 5 mg
- **NDC:** 16571-401-10
- **Package:** HDPE bottles of 100 tablets
- **Lot numbers recalled: GY825029, GY825030, GY825031, and GY825032**
- **Expiration date on all recalled lots:** October 2028
- **Shipped:** April through June 2026
- **Distributor:** Rising Pharma Holdings Inc.

For people with a hypersensitivity to ranitidine, the FDA says a contaminated tablet could cause a serious reaction, including anaphylaxis and other effects the agency describes as life-threatening. Warning signs include hives, swelling in the face or throat, and trouble breathing or swallowing. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek emergency care right away.

For context: ranitidine was pulled from the U.S. market in 2020 over an unrelated cancer-risk concern, then reformulated and reapproved by the FDA in late 2025. This recall does not involve that earlier risk. It's a manufacturing quality issue limited to these four lots, not a problem with all cetirizine or every Rising Pharma product.

What if the lot number isn't on the bottle?

These 5 mg tablets are dispensed by pharmacies, which means many people don't have the manufacturer's original bottle. They have a pharmacy vial with the pharmacy's own label on it. That label may not show the lot number at all.

If you filled a cetirizine prescription this spring or summer and can't find a lot number, call your pharmacy. Pharmacies are notified of recalls directly by distributors and can check your specific fill against the recalled lots in a way you can't.

Recalls Are Riskier If You're Juggling Several Prescriptions

More than 4 in 10 adults over 65 take five or more prescription medications, according to research published in JAMA, and many rely on a pill organizer, blister pack, or mail-order supply to keep track of them.

The same tools that make medication management easier also separate you from the label. Once pills move into a weekly organizer, the bottle with the lot number and NDC is usually long gone by the time a recall makes the news.

How to Check All Your Medications for Recalls

This recall will fade from the news, and there will be another one. Here's how to check whether a medication is recalled, this time and every time after:

1. **Know where to look.** FDA.gov/recalls is the primary source. Sign up for FDA MedWatch email alerts so you're not relying on catching the news.
2. **Keep the identifying information, not just the pills.** A recall is checked against the NDC and lot number, not just the drug name. Photograph every new bottle or vial label before the pills go into an organizer, and keep the photos in one place.
3. **Use one pharmacy where possible.** A pharmacist can check your fill against a recall faster than any manual search, but only if one pharmacy has your full history.
4. **If you manage someone else's medications, this matters even more.** If you didn't fill the prescription yourself, you may not know the manufacturer or lot number at all. Keeping a current, complete medication list is important.

How a Sølace Advocate Can Help

Checking one recall notice is a small task. Keeping track of everything in your medicine cabinet, who prescribed it, where it was filled, and which bottle is which is a much bigger one. A Solace advocate can help keep a complete, current picture of your medications, flag anything that doesn't match, and work with your pharmacy and prescribers to get answers, not just during a recall but during every check-in.

Learn more about how a Solace advocate supports medication management.

See what an advocate can do →

What to Do If You Have a Recalled Bottle

If your bottle matches one of the four recalled lots, stop taking pills from that bottle. Don't throw it away yet. Contact Rising Pharma Holdings Inc. at 1-844-874-7464, or by email at pv@risingpharma.com or qa@risingpharma.com, or reach out to your pharmacy. Either one can walk you through the return process.

Tell your prescriber or pharmacist as well, so they can arrange a replacement without a gap in your allergy treatment. The recall is a manufacturing issue in specific lots, not a reason to go without the medication you rely on, so ask about a replacement before you stop.

If you or someone you're caring for had a reaction, report it to the FDA's MedWatch program at 800-332-1088.

FAQs

Is Zyrtec part of the 2026 recall?
No. Brand-name Zyrtec is not affected by the July 2026 recall. The recall covers only four lots of generic Cetirizine Hydrochloride Tablets USP 5 mg (NDC 16571-401-10), made by Unique Pharmaceutical Laboratories and distributed by Rising Pharma Holdings, due to potential cross-contamination with ranitidine.

What are the recalled cetirizine lot numbers?

The recalled lots are GY825029, GY825030, GY825031, and GY825032, all with an October 2028 expiration date. Check the lot number on your bottle against this list. If your pharmacy vial doesn't show a lot number, call your pharmacy and ask them to check your fill.

Why was this cetirizine recalled?

A pharmacy technician noticed red dots and discoloration on tablets while dispensing them, which led to the discovery of potential cross-contamination with ranitidine, a heartburn medication. For people with a ranitidine hypersensitivity, the FDA says this could cause serious reactions, including anaphylaxis.

Has anyone gotten sick from the recalled cetirizine?

As of the FDA's recall notice, Unique Pharmaceutical Laboratories had not received any reports of adverse events related to the recall.

What should I do if I have a recalled bottle of cetirizine?

Stop taking it, but don't throw it out before contacting Rising Pharma Holdings Inc. (1-844-874-7464) or your pharmacy about the return process. Let your prescriber or pharmacist know so a replacement can be arranged without a gap in treatment, and report any reaction to the FDA's MedWatch program.

How do I check if any of my other medications have been recalled?

Check the NDC and lot number, not just the drug name, against FDA.gov/recalls, and sign up for FDA MedWatch alerts for ongoing monitoring. Using one pharmacy for all

your prescriptions also means a pharmacist can check your fills against a recall faster than a manual lookup.

Is this the same contamination that caused the 2020 Zantac recall?

It involves the same drug, ranitidine, but a different concern. The 2020 Zantac recalls were driven by a cancer-linked impurity called NDMA. This 2026 cetirizine recall is about potential manufacturing cross-contamination with ranitidine itself, and the FDA's notice does not cite any NDMA or cancer risk here.

REFERENCES

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