

## Black Box Warnings

Tip-Look for synonyms also such as: warning; black box warning; boxed warning; black label warning

1. FDA website (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>)
2. MICROMEDEX 2.0 DRUGDEX

Look in menu under Cautions--Black Box Warning:

**NEFAZODONE**

DRUGDEX® Evaluations [OTHER SOURCES](#)

**OVERVIEW**

1) Class

a) This drug is a member of the following class(es):

- Antidepressant
- Phenylpiperazine
- Serotonin/Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor

2) Dosing Information

a) Nefazodone Hydrochloride

1) Adult

a) Major depressive disorder

- 1) initial, 100 mg ORALLY twice a day
- 2) maintenance: may increase dose by 100-200 mg/day (in 2 divided doses) at intervals of no less than 1 week; max dose 600 mg/day

2) Pediatric

a) safety and effectiveness in individuals below 18 years of age have not been established

3) Contraindications

a) Nefazodone Hydrochloride

- 1) previous withdrawal of nefazodone hydrochloride due to evidence of liver injury; reintroduction may increase risk of liver injury (Prod Info SERZONE(R) oral tablets, 2005)
- 2) coadministration of astemizole, carbamazepine, cisapride, pimozide, or terfenadine (Prod Info SERZONE(R) oral tablets, 2005)
- 3) coadministration with full doses of triazolam; can cause significant increases in triazolam plasma levels (Prod Info SERZONE(R) oral tablets, 2005)
- 4) hypersensitivity to nefazodone hydrochloride or other phenylpiperazine antidepressants (Prod Info SERZONE(R) oral tablets, 2005)

3. Access Medicine

Look in menu for Warnings/Precautions and click on link:

**Warnings/Precautions**

**Boxed warnings:**

- Suicidal thinking/behavior: See "Major psychiatric warnings" below.

**Major psychiatric warnings:**

- **[U.S. Boxed Warning]: Antidepressants increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults (18-24 years of age) with major depressive disorder (MDD) and other psychiatric disorders; consider risk prior to prescribing. Short-term studies did not show an increased risk in patients >24 years of age and showed a decreased risk in patients ≥65 years. Closely monitor patients for clinical worsening, suicidality, or unusual changes in behavior, particularly during the initial 1-2 months of therapy or during periods of dosage adjustments (increases or decreases); the patient's family or caregiver should be instructed to closely observe the patient and communicate condition with healthcare provider. A medication guide concerning the use of antidepressants should be dispensed with each prescription. Nefazodone is not FDA approved for use in children.**
- The possibility of a suicide attempt is inherent in major depression and may persist until remission occurs. Patients treated with antidepressants should be observed for clinical worsening and suicidality, especially during the initial few months of a course of drug therapy, or at times of dose changes, either increases or decreases. Worsening depression and severe abrupt suicidality that are not part of the presenting condition.

4. UpToDate

Look in menu for 'ALERT: U.S. Boxed Warning':

The screenshot shows the UpToDate website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'nefazodone' entered and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs: 'New Search', 'Patient Info', 'What's New', and 'Calculators'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Back to Search Results for "nefazodone"'. The main content area is titled 'Nefazodone: Drug information'. On the left, a 'TOPIC OUTLINE' sidebar lists various topics, with 'ALERT: U.S. Boxed Warning' highlighted. The main text area contains the following information:

**Nefazodone: Drug information**  
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 (For additional information see "[Nefazodone: Patient drug information](#)" and see "[Nefazodone: Pediatric drug information](#)")

**ALERT: U.S. Boxed Warning** The FDA-approved labeling includes a boxed warning. See Warnings/Precautions section for a concise summary of this information. For verbatim wording of the boxed warning, consult the product labeling or [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

**Medication Safety Issues**  
 Sound-alike/look-alike issues:  
 Serzone® may be confused with selegiline, Serentil®, Seroquel®, sertraline

**Medication Guide** An FDA-approved patient medication guide, which is available with the product information and at <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?id=4522>, must be dispensed with this medication for each new outpatient prescription and refill.

**Pharmacologic Category**

5. MICROMEDEX 2.0

Type Black Box Warnings in the search box to pull up a list:

The screenshot shows the MICROMEDEX 2.0 website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'MICROMEDEX® 2.0', '1.0 | MOBILE', 'Want to search in 2.0 first?', 'MY SUBSCRIPTION', 'MICROMEDEX GATEWAY', 'LOG OUT', and 'HELP'. Below this is a 'Tools' section with links for 'Drug Interactions', 'Trissel's™2 IV Compatibility', 'Drug Identification', 'Tox & Drug Product Lookup', 'Drug Comparison', and 'Calculators'. A search bar contains the text 'black box warnings' and a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, there is a 'Print' icon. The main content area is titled 'Black Box Warnings' and displays 'Displaying 892 results with Black Box Warnings'. A 'Jump To: Top of Page | 0-9 | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z' navigation bar is present. The results are listed under the letter 'A':

- ABACAVIR
- Abacavir Sulfate
- Abacavir Sulfate/Lamivudine
- Abacavir Sulfate/Lamivudine/Zidovudine
- ABARELIX

6. DailyMed

<http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm>

\*Note: DailyMed does not contain a complete listing of labels for approved prescription drugs.

The screenshot shows the DailyMed website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search : " and a "GO" button. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for "Limits: Drug Name", "NDC Code", and "Drug Class". The search results display "NEFAZODONE HYDROCHLORIDE tablet [Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Inc.]". To the right of the drug name, there is a "RxNorm Names" section with a link to "Review RxNorm Normal Fo...". Below the drug name, there is a "Permanent Link" with the URL: <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=b1d149db-ad43-4f3f-ae11-fb0395ba4191>. Below the link, there is a table with three columns: "Category", "DEA Schedule", and "Marketing Status". The "Category" column contains the text "HUMAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG LABEL". Below the table, there is a section titled "Drug Label Sections" with a list of buttons: "Description", "Clinical Pharmacology", "Indications & Usage", "Contraindications", "Warnings", "Precautions", "Adverse Reactions", "Overdosage", "Dosage & Administration", "How Supplied", "Patient Counseling Information", "Supplemental Patient Material", "Boxed Warning", "Patient Package Insert", "Highlights", "Full Table of Contents", and "Medication Guide". A red arrow points to the "Boxed Warning" button.