

CVS pulling popular cold meds from shelves after report deems them to be useless

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CVS Health plans to pull cold medications that contain phenylephrine

from its store shelves after federal regulators determined recently that the decongestant doesn't work.

Oral phenylephrine is an [active ingredient](#) in such well-known products as Sudafed and Dayquil. An FDA advisory committee [ruled](#) last month that the ingredient was useless in easing congestion.

"We are removing certain oral cough and cold products that contain phenylephrine as the only active ingredient from CVS Pharmacy stores," the company told CBS MoneyWatch.

"Other oral cough and cold products will continue to be offered to meet consumer needs," the company added.

Another drugstore chain, Walgreens, said it "follows FDA [U.S. Food and Drug Administration] regulations," but did not say if it would stop selling the medications.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and actively partnering with the Walgreens Office of Clinical Integrity and suppliers on appropriate next steps," a spokesperson told CBS MoneyWatch.

Medications that contain phenylephrine account for \$1.8 billion in annual sales, according to FDA data.

More information: The National Library of Medicine has more on [phenylephrine](#).

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