HOME

# Blood-Thinning Drug Recalled After Plastic and Possible Metal Particles Were Found

By bestfolkmedicine · 27/10/2026 · 9 min read



**A nationwide recall of a hospital-administered blood thinner has raised serious safety concerns after investigators discovered foreign particles in certain batches of the medication—including plastic materials and possibly stainless steel.**

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A medication designed to prevent dangerous blood clots has become the subject of a nationwide recall in the United States after potentially hazardous particles were discovered in certain batches.

On October 13, 2026, Par Health USA announced the voluntary recall of 22 lots of Argatroban Injection, a prescription anticoagulant administered intravenously in hospitals.

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published the announcement the following day.

The contamination involved several types of foreign material, including plastic particles and potentially stainless steel.

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Federal regulators warned that administering contaminated medication into the bloodstream could have life-threatening consequences.

The most troubling aspect?

**The drug is specifically intended to prevent or treat blood clots—yet foreign particles in the injectable solution could potentially obstruct blood vessels and cause serious complications.**

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## What Blood-Thinning Medication Is Being Recalled?

The recalled medication is Argatroban Injection, manufactured and distributed under the Par Health and Endo USA names.

The affected product is:

- **Medication:** Argatroban Injection
- **Strength:** 250 mg/2.5 mL (100 mg/mL)
- **Company:** Par Health USA, LLC
- **Affected batches:** 22 lots
- **Recall announced:** October 13, 2026
- **FDA announcement published:** October 14, 2026
- **Distribution:** Nationwide, to wholesalers and hospitals

The recalled lots were distributed between December 30, 2024, and May 5, 2026.

Expiration dates range from October 2026 through September 2027.

The recall applies to specific batches, not every argatroban product available in the United States.

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Because argatroban is an intravenous medication primarily used in hospitals, patients generally do not keep this medication at home.

## What Exactly Was Found Inside the Medication?

According to the FDA-published recall announcement, investigators identified several types of particulate matter in certain lots of the injectable medication.

These included:

**1. Polystyrene**

A synthetic plastic commonly used in packaging and industrial products.

ezstandalone.cmd.push(function () { ezstandalone.showAds(134); });
**2. Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)**

A plastic material widely used in bottles, containers, and other manufactured products.

**3. Cellulose**

A plant-derived material that can appear as fibers or particles.

**4. Stopper Material**

Particles originating from material associated with medication vial closures.

**5. Possible Stainless Steel**

Investigators also identified material that may have included stainless steel particles.

ezstandalone.cmd.push(function () { ezstandalone.showAds(135); });
The recall announcement did not establish that every affected vial contained all these materials.

It also did not provide a definitive explanation of how the contamination occurred.

However, the presence of unexpected particulate matter in medication intended for intravenous administration is a serious quality-control concern.

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When an injectable medication enters the bloodstream, particles can bypass many of the body's normal protective barriers.

Depending on their size, composition, and quantity, foreign particles may contribute to vascular irritation, inflammation, or obstruction.

## Why Could These Particles Be Dangerous?

The FDA-published announcement warns that administering contaminated argatroban has a reasonable probability of causing life-threatening adverse health consequences.

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Potential complications include:

### Pulmonary Embolism

A pulmonary embolism occurs when a blood vessel in the lungs becomes blocked.

This can interfere with normal blood circulation and oxygen exchange.

Symptoms may include sudden shortness of breath, chest discomfort, rapid heartbeat, and fainting.

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Severe cases require emergency medical treatment.

### Blood Vessel Obstruction

Foreign particles entering circulation could potentially obstruct smaller blood vessels.

Reduced blood flow may deprive surrounding tissues of oxygen and nutrients.

Depending on the location and severity of the blockage, this could lead to tissue injury or organ damage.

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### Inflammation of the Veins

Particulate contamination may irritate blood vessel walls and contribute to inflammation.

In some circumstances, this may increase the risk of clot formation.

This is particularly concerning because argatroban is used in patients already facing significant clotting risks.

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It is important to distinguish these potential hazards from confirmed injuries.

**At the time of the October 13 recall announcement, Par Health reported that it had received no adverse-event reports associated with the recalled product.**

## What Is Argatroban and Why Do Patients Need It?

Argatroban belongs to a class of medications known as direct thrombin inhibitors.

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Thrombin is an enzyme involved in the blood-clotting process.

By inhibiting thrombin, argatroban helps prevent the formation and expansion of harmful blood clots.

The medication is primarily used in adults with heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, commonly known as HIT.

HIT is a potentially dangerous immune reaction associated with the anticoagulant heparin.

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Although heparin normally prevents clotting, patients with HIT can develop an immune response that increases their risk of abnormal blood clot formation.

Argatroban may be used to prevent or treat thrombosis in these patients.

It is also used in certain patients with HIT, or at risk for HIT, who undergo percutaneous coronary intervention—procedures used to open narrowed or blocked coronary arteries.

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For these patients, appropriate anticoagulation can be essential.

That is why hospitals must ensure that recalled products are removed without unnecessarily interrupting medically necessary treatment.

## Which Batches Are Included in the Recall?

The recall involves 22 lots of Argatroban Injection under two National Drug Code identifiers.

**NDC 42023-182-01**

Affected lot numbers:

83449, 82682, 86714, 87302, 87560, 87753, 88401, 88614, 88836, 90220, 91216, 91219, 92004, 92006, 92009, 92596, 92782, 93107, 93329, and 93890.

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**NDC 42023-182-89**

Affected lot numbers:

84193 and 92880.

These lot numbers are important for hospital pharmacies, wholesalers, and healthcare facilities responsible for identifying affected inventory.

Healthcare professionals should consult the complete FDA recall announcement to verify lot-specific expiration dates and product information.

Par Health instructed distributors and hospital pharmacies to immediately stop using and distributing the recalled medication and arrange for its return.

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## Have Any Patients Been Harmed?

As of the company's October 13, 2026 announcement, there were no reported adverse events associated with the recall.

This is an important distinction.

The recall was issued because of the potential danger posed by contaminated injectable medication—not because regulators had confirmed widespread patient injuries.

Nevertheless, the FDA-published announcement describes the potential consequences as serious enough to warrant immediate action.

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The absence of reported adverse events does not establish that every affected vial was administered safely or that contamination carries no risk.

It means that the company had not received reports connecting adverse events to the recalled product at the time of its announcement.

## Should Patients Who Received Blood Thinners Be Worried?

Most people taking blood-thinning medication are not directly affected by this recall.

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Argatroban is different from commonly prescribed oral anticoagulants such as apixaban, rivaroxaban, and warfarin.

The current recall specifically involves certain lots of injectable argatroban.

It does not mean that all blood thinners are contaminated or unsafe.

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Patients who recently received intravenous anticoagulants during hospitalization and are concerned about possible exposure should contact their hospital or treating physician.

Hospital medication records can help determine whether a patient received argatroban and, where available, identify the product lot.

People taking prescribed blood thinners should not stop, skip, or adjust treatment because of this announcement without consulting their healthcare professional.

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Suddenly interrupting anticoagulant therapy can increase the risk of serious blood clots, stroke, or other complications.

## Warning Signs That Require Immediate Medical Attention

Anyone experiencing symptoms suggestive of a serious blood clot or vascular complication should seek prompt medical evaluation.

Potential warning signs include:

- Sudden difficulty breathing
- Sharp or unexplained chest pain
- Fainting or severe dizziness
- New swelling or pain in one leg
- Sudden weakness or neurological changes
- Severe unexplained pain in an arm or leg
- Unusual redness, swelling, or pain near an intravenous injection site

These symptoms can occur for many reasons and do not necessarily indicate exposure to a recalled medication.

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However, sudden chest pain, breathing difficulty, or stroke-like symptoms warrant emergency medical attention.

## How Could Plastic or Metal End Up in an Injectable Drug?

The precise cause of contamination in the recalled argatroban lots has not been publicly established in the FDA announcement.

However, particulate contamination in injectable medicines can potentially originate from several stages of manufacturing or handling.

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Possible sources in pharmaceutical production generally include packaging components, equipment, filtration systems, processing materials, and container closures.

For example, tiny fragments can sometimes be introduced through mechanical processes or interactions between pharmaceutical solutions and their packaging.

However, these are general possibilities, not confirmed explanations for the Par Health recall.

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Determining the actual cause requires a detailed investigation of manufacturing records, equipment, packaging components, and quality-control results.

Injectable medications are subject to strict requirements because substances introduced into the bloodstream can present risks that differ significantly from those associated with oral medications.

Particles that might be relatively harmless when present in certain external environments can become dangerous when introduced directly into blood vessels.

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## Why Medication Recalls Matter for Public Health

Medication recalls are an important component of pharmaceutical safety oversight.

When a quality defect is identified, recalling affected products can help prevent additional exposure and allow healthcare facilities to remove potentially hazardous supplies.

However, recalls also raise broader questions about manufacturing standards, contamination prevention, and surveillance systems.

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How early can manufacturers detect microscopic particles?

How effectively can pharmaceutical companies trace affected batches?

And how quickly can hospitals remove recalled products without disrupting patient care?

These questions are especially important for medications administered to critically ill patients.

Many patients receiving intravenous anticoagulants already have complex medical conditions.

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Ensuring the purity and integrity of these products is therefore essential.

## What Happens Next?

Par Health announced that it was notifying wholesale distributors and hospital customers that received affected products.

The company also arranged for the return of recalled inventory through Inmar, Inc.

ezstandalone.cmd.push(function () { ezstandalone.showAds(156); });
Hospitals and pharmacies were instructed to discontinue use and distribution of affected lots immediately.

Healthcare facilities are responsible for checking their inventory and ensuring that recalled medications are not administered.

Any suspected adverse reactions or medication quality problems can be reported through the FDA's MedWatch safety reporting program.

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Patients who have questions about their previous treatment should contact their healthcare provider.

## The Bottom Line

The nationwide recall of 22 lots of Argatroban Injection highlights a serious potential hazard involving foreign particles in medication designed to prevent dangerous blood clots.

The discovery of plastic materials, cellulose, stopper fragments, and possibly stainless steel prompted Par Health to withdraw affected products from hospitals and distributors.

ezstandalone.cmd.push(function () { ezstandalone.showAds(158); });
Although no related adverse events had been reported when the recall was announced, the potential consequences of injecting contaminated medication include severe vascular complications.

The recall is limited to specific batches of hospital-administered argatroban.

Patients taking other prescription blood thinners should not assume their medications are affected or discontinue treatment.

ezstandalone.cmd.push(function () { ezstandalone.showAds(159); });

**The larger lesson is clear: medications intended to protect patients must meet rigorous safety and quality standards, especially when they are delivered directly into the bloodstream.**

For healthcare facilities, rapid identification and removal of affected products is essential.

For patients, awareness and communication with medical professionals remain the most practical safeguards.

ezstandalone.cmd.push(function () { ezstandalone.showAds(160); });

*Medical Disclaimer: This article is intended for educational and informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Never discontinue prescribed anticoagulant medication without consulting your healthcare provider. Seek emergency medical attention for sudden chest pain, severe breathing difficulties, or symptoms of a possible stroke or blood clot.*

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