

# FDA Approves Over-The-Counter Zyrtec®

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WASHINGTON - The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved Johnson & Johnson's popular allergy medicine Zyrtec for over-the-counter use.

Originally cleared in 2001 as a prescription medication, the FDA action makes Zyrtec available without a doctor's note to treat allergy symptoms.

"This approval reflects FDA's commitment to bringing prescription drugs to the over-the-counter market when they can be safely used without a prescription," said Andrea Leonard-Segal, a division director at FDA's drug center.

Zyrtec is distributed by Johnson & Johnson's McNeil Consumer Healthcare subsidiary. Johnson & Johnson acquired the drug in 2006 from Pfizer Inc. in a purchase that included the entire Pfizer Consumer Healthcare business.

Shares of Johnson & Johnson rose 87 cents Friday to \$65.48 in afternoon trading.