**World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: FDA Reminds to Read Labels Before Taking Medicine**

The Thai FDA advises vehicle drivers to read labels before using medications and be cautious of drugs that may affect driving, in order to ensure safety for themselves and other road users.

Dr. Withid Sariddeechaikool, Deputy Secretary-General of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), stated that on the occasion of the **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims**, which this year falls on 17th November 2024, the aim is to raise awareness of the impacts of road traffic accidents on victims, their families, and communities. The goal is to encourage all sectors to recognize the importance of road accident prevention and to work together to improve road safety. Thailand ranks 9th in the world for road traffic accidents. One of the main causes of these accidents is **"drowsy driving"**, which often results from fatigue, lack of sleep, or the use of medications that cause drowsiness.

The FDA is aware of and acknowledges the importance of this issue, so it is urging drivers to be cautious when taking certain medications that may affect their ability to drive. This is to help reduce the risk of accidents, particularly with medications such as:

1. **Antihistamines/Anti-motion sickness medications**, such as Chlorpheniramine, Dimenhydrinate
2. **Sedatives/Antianxiety medications/Antipsychotics**, such as Diazepam, Alprazolam
3. **Cough medications containing opiate derivatives**, such as cough syrups with codeine
4. **Muscle relaxants/Pain relievers**
5. **Other medications that may impair driving**, such as medications for diabetes and hypertension

The Deputy Secretary-General emphasized that drivers should always read warning labels on medications and strictly follow the instructions. If a medication label indicates "this drug may cause drowsiness," drivers should avoid driving vehicles or operating heavy machinery. For safety, it is recommended to purchase medications from pharmacies that have licensed pharmacists available to provide proper guidance on correct usage.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Published on 16 November 2024, Press release 40/ Fiscal Year 2025**