

It is important to stay informed if you have a medical implant, use a medical device or take medicine. While manufacturers must meet government standards before bringing a product to market, there are frequently product recalls and updates.

Empower yourself as a consumer. Pay attention to the news, ask your doctor to provide you with updates and search the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website database. The FDA has jurisdiction over [recalls](#) and approvals involving medical implants, medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

A number of medical devices and drugs were recalled in 2010. The [DePuy hip implant recall](#) was among the largest of the year. DePuy Orthopedics recalled the ASR XL Acetabular System in August 2010 after a study revealed one in eight patients required a second hip replacement surgery in five years. The standard hip implant lasts 15 years. The device had a high failure rate because its metal-on-metal parts released microscopic metal particles into the body and caused some patients pain and loosening of the prosthesis.

### **What to Do When a Medical Device is Recalled**

Products are defective for three reasons: manufacturing error, defective design or the manufacturer failed to warn consumers about a problem.

While there are many concerning [product recalls](#), a medical device recall is one of the most serious. Devices are often critical to a person's ability to function on a daily basis and can result in severe pain, illness and even death if not addressed in a timely manner. If you are the victim of a [medical device recall](#), it is critical for you to promptly contact a doctor and a [product liability attorney](#). When you contact your doctor's office, it is in your best interest not to sign any authorization forms to release records. This may be the manufacturer's way of obtaining your personal medical records.

An experienced [product liability lawyer](#) can advise you whether it is appropriate to sign any forms and help you file a claim for your injuries. When choosing a product liability lawyer, look for one with experience and a strong knowledge of [product liability law](#). This area of law is complex and has nuances that require years of experience. You may also want to ask if your attorney is handling other cases involving your recalled product. This can be helpful. Finally, seek an attorney with an established network of experts in the field of [product liability](#).

The [Massachusetts product liability lawyers](#) at Breakstone, White & Gluck of Boston are experienced at handling cases involving [defective medical devices](#). We have access to the top medical and science experts to review your claim. Our law firm is currently handling claims involving Massachusetts victims of the [DePuy hip implant recall](#). If we can help you, please contact us at (617) 723-7676 or visit our website at [www.bwglaw.com](http://www.bwglaw.com).