

# Obesity pill Qsymia gains FDA approval



(CBS News) After months of anticipation and deliberation, the obesity pill formerly known as Qnexa has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The product will be sold under a new name, Qsymia.

"Obesity threatens the overall well being of patients and is a major public health concern," Dr. Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in a statement. "Qsymia, used responsibly in combination with a healthy lifestyle that includes a reduced-calorie diet and exercise, provides another treatment option for chronic weight management."

Qsymia is an extended-release combination of two older drugs, phentermine and Topiramate. Phentermine is an amphetamine approved for short-term weight loss and Topiramate is prescribed to prevent seizures and migraines, and is supposed to make pill-takers feel more full.

Qsymia's approval follows the FDA's approval of another obesity pill, [Arena Pharmaceuticals' Belviq](#), in late June. That drug was the first weight-loss pill approved by the FDA in more than a decade, since Xenical (sold over the counter as alli) was approved. Anti-obesity pills face an uphill battle for approval because the drugs often carry side effects.

"Today's decision by the FDA marks the second time that the agency has approved a new obesity treatment drug within the last 30 days," Laurie Traetow, executive director of the American Society of Bariatric Physicians said in a statement.

# **FDA Approves Obesity Pill Belviq For Weight-Related Health Problems**

**Belviq** is essentially an improved safe “phen-fen” and may have the same spectacular results. Our patients taking the “phen-fen” combination report losing 10-20 pounds or more without being hungry at all. They say they had to force themselves to eat, and that even their favourite foods would make them nauseous, as if they were sick. It is now available.

Our survey of the first month results from Belviq