Varenicline TPP — Settlement Summary

Last Modified on 10/29/2026 2:01 pm EDT

Varenicline (Chantix) TPP Class Action Settlement

Summary

A $44 million class action settlement has been reached against Pfizer, Inc. arising from allegations that its branded smoking-cessation drug Chantix (varenicline) contained an undisclosed nitrosamine contaminant. The settlement covers individuals and third-party payors (TPPs) who paid any amount for retail purchases of Chantix in the United States and its territories between September 29, 2015, and September 17, 2021. Pfizer denies all wrongdoing but agreed to settle to avoid the costs and uncertainties of continued litigation.

Announcements

Final Approval Granted: The Court has entered a *Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement*, as listed in the Court Documents. The settlement has received final court approval.

Attorneys' Fees Order Entered: The Court has entered an *Order Awarding Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Expenses, & Service Awards*, as listed in the Court Documents.

Notice Date Extension: The settlement website lists a *Notice Date Extension Order* among the court documents, indicating that the notice period was formally extended by court order. FRS staff should confirm that the September 14, 2026 claim deadline remains operative or has been further modified.

Claim Filing Deadline: Claim Forms must be submitted online or postmarked by**September 14, 2026**. The Final Approval Hearing was scheduled for **October 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

Settlement Amount

Pfizer will pay **$44,000,000** into a Settlement Fund. The Fund will cover:

- Settlement payments to class members
- Notice and administration costs
- Attorneys' fees and litigation costs (capped at no more than one-third of the Fund)
- Class representative awards

Consumer claimants: Payments will be made on a pro rata basis according to each consumer's documented Chantix expenditures, capped at 20% of the Available Settlement Fund. No individual consumer payment will exceed the total amount that consumer paid for Chantix.

TPP claimants: After consumer claims are satisfied, the remainder of the Fund will be distributed to TPP Settlement Class Members (including assignees) on a pro rata basis, according to each TPP's total qualifying and documented payments.

Per-claimant estimates are not published on the settlement website, as the final distribution amounts depend on the total number and value of valid claims submitted.

Class Period

September 29, 2015 through September 17, 2021

Filing Deadline

September 14, 2026 — Claim Forms must be submitted online or postmarked by this date. Note that a Notice Date Extension Order was issued; FRS staff should verify this deadline has not been further modified. Note also that Final Approval has been granted, which is consistent with the settlement proceeding to the claims distribution phase.

Who Qualifies

The Settlement Class includes:

- **Individual consumers** who paid any amount of money for retail purchases of Chantix in the United States and its territories from September 29, 2015, through September 17, 2021.
- **Third-party payors (TPPs)** — including insurers, health plans, and their assignees — who paid any amount for retail purchases of Chantix in the United States and its territories during the same period.

Who Is Excluded

Specific exclusions are not detailed on the pages reviewed. Standard class action exclusions typically apply (e.g., the defendant and its affiliates, judicial officers presiding over the case). Any person who submitted a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (opt-out) is also excluded from the Settlement Class. FRS staff should review the full Settlement Agreement and Long-Form Notice (available on the Court Documents page) for a complete list of excluded parties.

How to File

- **Step 1:** Determine eligibility — confirm that the claimant (individual or TPP) paid for retail purchases of Chantix in the U.S. or its territories between September 29, 2015, and September 17, 2021.
- **Step 2:** Gather supporting documentation — compile records of Chantix purchases and/or payments (e.g., pharmacy receipts, explanation of benefits, claims data) to substantiate the claim amount. The settlement website advises including documents to support your claim where possible.
- **Step 3:** Complete a Claim Form — submit the Claim Form **online** through the settlement website, or **download a paper Claim Form** and mail it to the Settlement Administrator.
- **Step 4:** Meet the deadline — Claim Forms must be**submitted online or postmarked by September 14, 2026**.
- **Step 5:** For questions, contact the Settlement Administrator at **1-877-354-3912** or via the Contact Information page on the settlement website.

Defendants

- **Pfizer, Inc.** — Manufacturer and seller of Chantix (varenicline), a branded prescription smoking-cessation drug. Plaintiffs alleged that Pfizer manufactured and sold Chantix containing an undisclosed nitrosamine contaminant. Pfizer denies all allegations and any wrongdoing.

Case History

- **Case name:** *In re Chantix (Varenicline) Mktg., Sales Pracs. & Prods. Liab. Litig. (No. II)*, Case No. 22-MD-3050 (KPF), 22-MC-3050 (S.D.N.Y.)

- **Court:** United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- **Class period begins:** September 29, 2015 (alleged conduct/sales period start)
- **Class period ends:** September 17, 2021 (alleged conduct/sales period end)
- **Preliminary Approval Motion filed:** Plaintiffs filed an Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Preliminary Approval granted:** Court entered Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Notice Date Extension Order:** Court issued an order extending the notice period (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Attorneys' Fees Motion filed:** Class Counsel filed Motion for Award of Attorney's Fees (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Motion for Final Approval filed:** Plaintiffs filed Motion for Final Approval of Settlement (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Attorneys' Fees Order entered:** Court entered Order Awarding Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Expenses, & Service Awards (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Final Approval granted:** Court entered Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement (exact date not specified on reviewed pages)
- **Claim/Opt-Out/Objection Deadline:** September 14, 2026
- **Final Approval Hearing:** October 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. (scheduled; subject to change)

Class Counsel

- Ruben Honik and David J. Stanoch — Honik LLC
- Charles E. Schaffer — Levin Sedran & Berman LLP
- Joseph P. Guglielmo — Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP

Source

- Settlement Home Page: *Varenicline (Chantix) TPP settlement website* (URL not published in source content — FRS to confirm official URL)
- Court Documents Page: Same settlement website, Court Documents tab

Last Updated

2026-10-29

Reviewer Flags

- **Changes from previous version:**
  - **Announcements section updated:** Added two new announcements reflecting court documents now present on the Court Documents page that were not listed in the prior version: (1) *Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement* and (2) *Order Awarding Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Expenses, & Service Awards*. The "Preliminary Approval Granted" announcement from the prior version has been superseded and replaced with the Final Approval announcement. The Final Approval Hearing date note has been moved into the Claim Filing Deadline announcement for conciseness.
  - **Case History section updated:** Added three new entries reflecting documents now listed on the Court Documents page: Motion for Final Approval filed; Attorneys' Fees Order entered; Final Approval (Judgment and Order) granted. Exact filing/entry dates remain unavailable from the source pages.
  - **Filing Deadline section updated:** Added a note that Final Approval has been granted, which is consistent with the settlement proceeding to the claims distribution phase.
  - **Last Updated date updated** from 2026-09-22 to 2026-10-29.

    - All other content preserved from prior version without change.
- **Source — Court Documents Page:** Provided the updated list of court documents, which now includes the *Order Awarding Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Expenses, & Service Awards* and the *Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement* — both new since the prior article version. Also lists the Motion for Final Approval and supporting declarations, which are new additions relative to the prior version.
- **Source — Home Page:** Content unchanged from prior version; provided settlement overview, class definition, class period, filing deadline, settlement amount, consumer/TPP distribution structure, opt-out/objection deadlines, Final Approval Hearing date, class counsel names, and administrator phone number.
- **FLAG — Final Approval timing vs. claim deadline:** The Court Documents page lists a *Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval*, but the Home Page still shows a claim filing deadline of September 14, 2026, and a Final Approval Hearing date of October 13, 2026. This suggests Final Approval may have been entered on or after October 13, 2026 — after the claim deadline had already passed. FRS staff should confirm whether the claim deadline has been extended in connection with Final Approval, and whether claims are still being accepted.
- **FLAG — Notice Date Extension:** A Notice Date Extension Order appears in the court documents list. It remains unclear whether the September 14, 2026 deadline shown on the home page already reflects this extension. FRS staff should pull and review this order to confirm the current operative deadline before advising clients.
- **FLAG — Settlement website URL missing:** The source content does not include the actual URL of the settlement website. FRS staff should add the official URL to the Source section before publishing.
- **FLAG — Exclusions not enumerated:** The home page does not specify excluded parties beyond the opt-out mechanism. The full Settlement Agreement is available via the Court Documents page and should be reviewed to populate the Who Is Excluded section accurately.
- **FLAG — Exact court document dates not available:** The Court Documents page lists document titles only, without filing or entry dates. Dates for all case history events are therefore absent. These can be retrieved from PACER (Case No. 22-MD-3050, S.D.N.Y.).
- **FLAG — Per-claimant estimate not available:** No per-claimant recovery estimate is provided on the settlement website.