

>DOCKET # 01N-0256

1451 '02 JAN -4 A9:00

FDA Dockets Management Branch
> 5600 Fishers Lane
> Bldg 5630
> Rockville, MD 20852
>

Dear FDA:

As a sufferer of chronic pain for over 6 years, now I can assure you that without the opiate (Lorcet 10/650) I would be dead or in a mental hospital. Chronic pain is a horrific disease that only those that suffer have any idea of the misery it brings with it. To find anything that gives you relief, even temporary is a battle of its own.

While the number of physicians practicing in this area is increasing, so that there are more doctors out there that understand chronic pain, the line between prescribing opiates and NSAIDS grows tougher each day because of abusers or young kids getting their hands on these drugs.

I have been through 3 suicide attempts, related to pain, but never used my pain relievers during these attempts.

The fact of the matter is that without my narcotics I would totally lose my mind and the ability to function altogether. I barely keep it in check now since I have no income, no job, and am not receiving benefits from the government.

I have applied for Social Security Disability but still have not heard anything since filing from the Hospital in June of 2001.

I like to think of myself as "drug dependent" not addicted. I only take what my physician provides although over the years the amount has increased. This is to be expected.

Please feel free to allow me to speak to Congress on this very important matter if it is not too late, or submit this letter into the record.

The crackdown on opiate prescribing by illegal practicing is understable. But don't crackdown on the wrong people, those physicans that are knowledgable about "chronic pain" and prescribe accordingly.

I assure you there would be more deaths from people falling through the cracks than are dying from improper use of these medications.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stu Cohen
4254 SW 10th Place
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
stuco25@juno.com

01N-0256

C 323

On Wed, 26 Dec 2001 07:28:13 -0500 "Topper, Kimberly L"

<TOPPERK@cder.fda.gov> writes:

> Stu,

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> You are welcome to submit your statement to the docket at the

> following

> address:

>

> FDA Dockets Management Branch

> 5600 Fishers Lane

> Bldg 5630

> Rockville, MD 20852

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> Please put Docket # 01N-0256 on the top of your letter.

>

> Kimberly

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> Kimberly Littleton Topper

> Health Science Administrator

> U.S. Food and Drug Administration

> Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: stuco25@juno.com [mailto:stuco25@juno.com]

> Sent: Tuesday, December 25, 2001 11:37 AM

> To: topperk@cder.fda.gov

> Subject: Still taking?

>

>> Are you still taking statements from pain patients about their

> experiences with opiate treatment for chronic pain for the upcoming

> hearings in January?

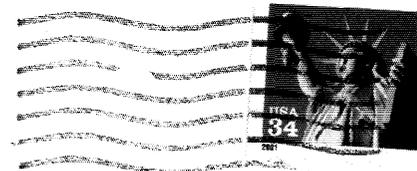
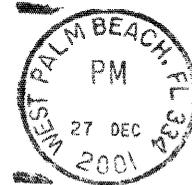
> Thank you in advance,

> Stu Cohen

>

>

S. COHEN
4254 SW 10TH PLACE
DEERFIELD BECH, FL 33442



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