



McLEOD

Cancer & Blood Center

East Tennessee Hematology-Oncology, P.C.

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Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation Research (HFD-21)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

This letter concerns the use of narcotics in cancer pain as well as non-cancer pain. I think the only treatment of chronic, severe pain certainly is narcotics given on a schedule ahead of time to prevent pain and this is well known. I do not think that Oxycontin or MS Contin have any particular role in what is being used in the population of people who abuse such drugs.

Pain control has improved rather markedly since these newer agents have been available and I think there should be no interruption in supply. They are useful not only in cancer management but also in such conditions as osteoarthritis which are refractory to non-steroidal drugs.

Sincerely,

William R. Kincaid, M.D.

WRK/kb

