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

Dear Ms. Topper,

I have been made aware of your upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting in June. I look forward to hearing the results of that committee. I would like to support the position of physicians prescribing opioid medications for chronic pain that is of non-malignant etiology.

I am a clinical neurologist specializing in musculoskeletal medicine and have skills in manipulative therapy. I have a practice that is made up mostly of patients with musculoskeletal pain. The majority are adults; there are some teenagers. Fortunately, most of the time, I can provide relief with hands-on skills and exercises, but at times opioids are necessary to help reduce the pain so exercises can be used and then strengthening follows. There are certainly a small number of patients that I follow that require chronic use of opioid therapy, and with this can at least lead productive lives and work with their pain at a level that they can manage. There are a few patients that are totally disabled and in pain and with medication appear to have less suffering.

Sincerely,



Edward R. Isaacs, M.D.

ERI/jmm