

8-17-01

To: Kimberly Topper  
Food and Drug Administration, CDER  
Advisors and Consultants Staff, HFD-21  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

From: American Chronic Pain Association Support Group  
Englewood Colorado Chapter  
Swedish Hospital  
Englewood, Colorado

Re: 01N-0256

We the members of American Chronic Pains Association are both sad and very troubled about the abuse of long term opiod analgesics. In particular we are very troubled about how any crack down by law enforcement or the FDA will effect those of us that are taking the medications such as Oxycontin correctly.

Those of use that are taking the medication correctly should not be punished by the few that are abusing it.

Studies show that less than 1% of those people taking the medication for pain management are becoming addicted.

Further we feel that everyone needs to be on the same page as far language goes in the use of the terms physical dependance and addiction. We would like to note that the psychiatric community has distinguished between the two terms for many years. Addiction is characterized by psychological dependence and abnormal drug -related behaviors--using drugs for other than useful medical purposes despite harmful effects. A state of euphoria is often the goal of addicts.

Physical dependence cause specific symptoms upon stopping the medication quickly. Those people taking blood pressure medication or people taking medication for diabetes have physical dependence. Due to the nature of the medicine oxycontin, those of us that take it as prescribed become physically dependent. There is no high or euphoria when it come to treating pain with this type of medication.

Those of us that are members of this support group are here because of some type of injury, illness, and failed surgery where we now live with chronic pain. All of us have gone through many hours in a doctors office or hospital. Our evaluations have been grueling and we all have a diagnosis and a prognosis. There is a consensus that our lives in many cases would be unbearable with out medications like Oxycontin.

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We believe that the evaluation for medications like oxycontin to be prescribed and the abuse of prescription medication are two separate issues.

Our lives are not easy as it is. Please don't make it any harder on us by putting us in the same category as those that are abusing.

All of our doctors are using a Chronic Controlled Substance Contract. By living this contract we live with the integrity that an addict does not appreciate. Please, don't insult us by putting us in the same category as an addict