

Dear Ms. Topper,

I am writing this letter regarding a meeting the FDA is having on Docket number 01N-0256.

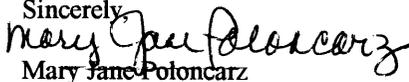
I was in a terrible car accident almost 3 years ago. It has been hell since then for my family and me. I am a health care professional, and I work in a local hospital as an RN. Several months after the accident, it was recommended to me that I see a pain management specialist to try to alleviate the discomfort I have on a daily basis. That of course is what I did and have continued to do for almost 3 years now. Without her help in putting together the right things I wouldn't even be able to get out of bed every day, let alone go to work. I did go to physical therapy for 6 months after the accident with just about no relief from the pain at all. I was becoming depressed and disheartened to think that nothing would help the horrific pain I felt every single day of my very young life. It was taking me away from my husband and my child and making our life together very difficult. They couldn't help me and I couldn't be there for them. Dr. Battista was my savior. She found the right combination of medications, including only one narcotic, Lortab. Without the medicine I wouldn't be able to move some days.

Please do not take the right away from Doctors and Nurse Practitioners to order these medications. Chronic pain is a FACT, an ugly one at that. Chronic pain DOES exist for many people. Chronic pain IS NOT fun for those who experience it. If you never experienced CHRONIC PAIN, then you need to ask those who have, you need to ask them what works for them. Please DO NOT let the FDA take the right away from those professionals who help people every day with their CHRONIC PAIN. Don't let them take away what works for most people with CHRONIC PAIN.

No one really wants to live with that kind of pain everyday. If that split second in time when someone ran a red light and almost took our lives could be different, than I would have already made that happen. Unfortunately that's not the case and so I have to live with it each and every day. That medicine is what keeps me an active part of life and gives me the ability to do it without as much pain as I would have if I could not take it.

Thank you for your time in this matter. I am counting on you to make the FDA listen to the pleas of those who suffer with chronic pain.

Sincerely,


Mary Jane Poloncarz