

Attention FDA

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It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam?

Neither I or anyone else should be required to have a medical exam and/or a hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid. Regardless of benefit I, or anyone, might receive from buying a hearing aid without a medical exam or hearing test the purchaser will not be hurt physically if the hearing aid does not help. A hearing aid is an electronic instrument which operates at a very low voltage and using it is no more hazardous

2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ...

than turning on a radio or TV and listening to them.

Of much concern is the fact that most people with hearing problems are elderly and many such people will not be financially able to absorb the cost. When you start dealing with doctors and hospitals these days you are going to incur a lot of cost even for SIMPLE THINGS

3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?

To require people to have a medical examination/or hearing test before buying hearing aids would be a great disservice to them. MANY COULD NOT AFFORD IT.

I am 79 years old, having hearing problems, and have been through all that. I know what I am talking about.

4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

Yes, by all means. If FDA should require medical tests or hearing tests before a person could buy a hearing aid FDA should pay for these tests, especially for the elderly. If all else fails to help, a person could always go to a doctor if he or she could afford it.

Signed by: Raymond C. Howell

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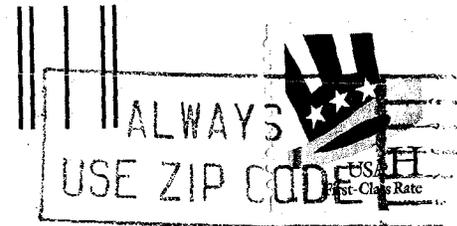
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