

Maine Dental Association

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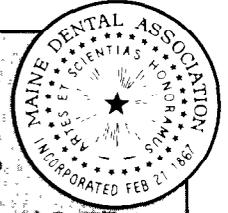
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A Constituent of the
American Dental
Association



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May 30, 2003

Dockets Managements Branch
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Response to the Food and Drug Administration's request for interested persons to provide information for a scientific literature review related to the health effects of dental amalgam in humans, 68 Fed. Reg. 25047-25048.

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Maine Dental Association ("MDA") has recently learned of the FDA's plan to establish a panel to perform a literature review on dental amalgam. As the professional association representing over 700 Maine dentists, we look forward to the results of this review.

The MDA would like to submit the following comments related to this matter:

1. The FDA has indicated that the search period will be confined to literature published from January 1, 1996 to June 1, 2003; however many studies of significant value predate this timeframe and should be considered.
2. FDA states that an "independent group will conduct the review," but no other information about the methodology to be followed in the review is available. We would urge the FDA to publish the methodology it plans to use in order to give the scientific community an opportunity to comment.
3. The FDA should publish information on the qualifications and selection of the reviewers.
4. The FDA's intent to select unbiased reviewers is commendable. However, to exclude individuals solely because they have been involved in prior reviews could unnecessarily rule out the expertise of very qualified people.
5. The FDA should include qualified dental experts on the review panel, as these individuals are familiar with dental amalgam and its use in clinical dentistry.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (207) 532-4747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl P Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karl P. Woods, DMD
President