



**EPILEPSY
FOUNDATION**

OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
January 26, 2006

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Mollie Winninger
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John O'Hurley
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

2055 El Cajon Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92104

The Honorable Mike Leavitt, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

As Director of Client Services for the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County, I wish to express strong support of the recent decision (January 18, 2006) by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, which revises the prescribed format and content of prescription drug labels.

This important reform affects not only the prescribing physician in his/her attempt to treat patients, but it is invaluable in helping the patient understand vital information regarding needed medications. Both doctors and their patients simply do not read the lengthy, complicated labels which are used currently, thus risking serious drug interactions and/or possible harmful side effects.

Since the FDA has included in the Rule's preamble the statement that label information pre-empts product liability lawsuits, this reform acts as prevention against continued abuse of the legal system.

In summary, please know that the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County congratulates the FDA for a decision that will encourage the safe use of drastically needed medications.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Upchurch
Director of Client Services

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(619) 296-0161 • FAX: (619) 296-0802 • e-mail: info@epilepsysandiego.org

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