

September 14, 2001

Kimberly Topper  
Foods and Drug Administration, CDER  
Advisors and Consultants Staff, HFD-21  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

RE: Docket No. 01N-0256  
Pain management for Non-Malignant Illnesses

This is a subject close to my heart since I have been suffering from Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS) for 14 years without adequate pain relief. My physician is reluctant to prescribe opiates since the FDA and all medical associations say that it is not necessary for non-malignant pain. Well that just isn't the case. The pain I have is so debilitating that it is painful to walk, sit, lie down, and just plain live. It keeps me awake at night, and therefore, I cannot get adequate sleep. I have been taking Ultram, and it just doesn't do the trick. I beg you please to consider granting authority to physicians to prescribe stronger medications for cases of non-malignant pain in all medical situations not just for CFIDS. Thank you for reading this memo.

Sincerely,



Rita B. Girard  
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