



CENTER FOR
*Physical Medicine
& Pain Management*

Abraham A. Cherrick, MD
Mayo F. Friedlis, MD
Virgil A. Balint, MD
James A. Johnsen, MD
Rodney B. Dade, MD
Robert H. Wagner, MD
Cindy Y. Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Burke, PA-C
Deborah Nelson, PA-C
Steve Skobel, ANP-C

FAIRFAX OFFICE

RE: KIMBERLY TOPPER
CPM #:
DOS: 08/08/01

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the use of opioids for nonmalignant pain.

I have been in practice 18 years as a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation. In my practice, I have the opportunity of seeing and assisting people with long-term disabilities, physical impairments, and chronic pain problems. It has been my experience that the use of opioid medications in patients such as these is extremely helpful in allowing them to achieve a higher level of function and a lower level of pain in their lives. Chronic opioid use in this patient population has not, in my experience, been associated with significant issues of addiction although tolerance can be seen. While there are certainly some patients who are not good candidates for long-term opioid support, this becomes clear after a short period of time. This also applies to patients who would have an abuse potential because of either preexistent drug addiction problems or current drug abuse problems. We have systems in processes within our office that allow for early targeting of such patients and exclusion from our program. These include strict adherence to refill criterion, the use of an opioid use contract, and a complete history and physical and interview by the physician to establish whether or not this patient is appropriate for these kinds of medications.

Physicians & Physical Therapists dedicated to the diagnosis and non-surgical treatment of pain

5520 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 215, Alexandria, VA (703) 914-8000 Fax: 642-1876 (Business Office)
5201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 910, Falls Church, VA 22041 (703) 998-8824 Fax: (703) 998-8256
6355 Walker Lane, Suite 507, Alexandria, VA 22310 (703) 971-4604 Fax: (703) 971-4603
150 Elden Street, Suite 240, Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 709-0832 Fax: (703) 689-0139
3031 Javier Road, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22031 (703) 560-8280 Fax: (703) 560-8214

RE: KIMBERLY TOPPER
CPM #:
DOS: 08/08/01
PAGE 2

I have seen these medications work miracles in patients' lives. Pain is a terrible thing to experience short term, let alone for one's entire life. Alleviation of pain is one of the things that physicians are capable of doing on a safe and continuous basis under the proper guidelines. Please do not in any way interfere with a physician's ability to help patients in this fashion or in which the ability to help patients would be constricted because of additional governmental regulations. The controls that are in place for opioids at present are entirely sufficient. Any further tightening of those controls would serve the result of reducing the availability for legitimate patients needing pain control and do little to stem the problem of illegal drug use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mayo F. Friedlis, M.D.

MF/ddi/hp
D:08/08/01
T:08/09/01
BY:6211
2P/0MMFY/J:25428
XZ:#2625428.881

Dictated but not read