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**Re: OXYCONTIN®**

Dear Dr. McCormick:

The American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) is a dynamic, multidisciplinary, non-profit organization that promotes access to appropriate interventional pain management services. ASIPP assists its national membership in providing high quality, appropriate, safe, and cost-effective care for patients with chronic pain. The Society achieves this goal by developing an understanding of the impact of pain and its treatment in order to develop better approaches to pain patient care and cost containment; to support, encourage, and participate in the development of clinical guidelines and parameters by supporting issues of patient safety, coverage of neural blockade, and other relevant issues of interest to interventional pain physicians.

It is our understanding that the FDA has scheduled or is contemplating Advisory Committee hearings relating to the recently announced potential changes in Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) policy to mandate a reduction in the production of Oxycontin® to 1996 levels and to restrict the prescription of Oxycontin to a set of physicians defined as "pain management specialists." ASIPP and its members are extremely knowledgeable in issues relating to the use of Oxycontin® in pain management, and have been the prime movers in securing a commitment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to move forward with an "interventional pain physician" specialty designation. Because ASIPP is very interested in issues relating to the appropriate availability of the drug to treat patients without abuse, we request the opportunity to participate in the FDA Advisory Committee process, and to otherwise assist the Agency in any way we can.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Laxmaiah Manchikanti, M.D.  
President and Executive Director

cc: William A. Sarraille, Esq.