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FO Lilly - For the Doctor?

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January 25, 2000

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner of Foods and Drugs
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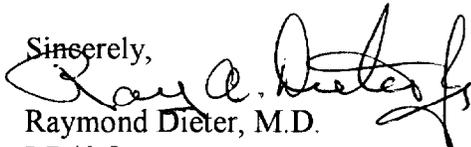
Dear Dr. Henney:

The January 5, 2000, volume 283 of *JAMA*, listed the FDA's proposed strategy on the reuse of "single-use devices." The reuse of single-use devices carries a lot of emotional and, as well as special interest concerns. As an individual who has used and reused single-use devices when they were properly reprocessed and sterilized, I have not had difficulty with these devices. Further, I have discussed this concept with individuals around the world, particularly with third-world physicians. Items that may be labeled as single-use in the United States may be used as many as 40 or more times in the low-income countries before they are disposed of. This is with full knowledge of manufacturers and health care individuals. The potential savings available to the patient and the health care facility may be great if this concept is utilized. The biggest difficulty with the development and maintenance of this type of program are the external groups such as federal and state regulators and industry.

It seems that proper function and sterilization of these items may be carried out without the extreme measures that have been suggested. When inappropriate emotional concerns are presented without adequate thought and knowledge, this places undue burdens on the reprocessing industry. The Federal Government should not be restrictive but rather assistive in developing simple and appropriate guidelines. Their employees should not be derogatory to the concept but assistive in the concept for the betterment of patient care. Again, as an individual who has used these techniques for years, as have many hospitals throughout the United States, I would encourage a lesser rather than a more stringent set of criteria.

Thanking you for your interest.

Sincerely,



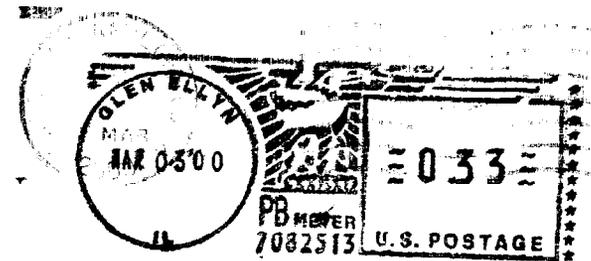
Raymond Dieter, M.D.
RD/drf

Primary-Care Outcomes in Patients Treated by Nurse Practitioners or Physicians, A Randomized Trial, by Mary O. Munbinger, Doctor PH, *JAMA*, January 5, 2000, volume 283, #1, page 59-68.

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