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May 22, 2000

Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Regulation of Over-the-Counter Drugs

To Whom It May Concern:

An article in USA Today on April 28, 2000 indicates that the Food and Drug Administration is considering making a number of drugs "from blood pressure treatments to birth control pills" available without a prescription.

Please note that I am against this. I cannot believe that this could be seriously considered. Many drugs have dangerous and/or too many side effects for the general population, and should never be dispensed without a doctor's prescription. A doctor must evaluate the needs of the individual and potential problems before the advice for treatment is given.

In particular, I have personal experience with both of the things mentioned in the article, blood pressure medications and birth control pills. My father had many adverse effects to blood pressure treatments, and it took about three months for him to become finally regulated. In the interim, he was very ill at times, and certainly could have died by over medicating himself without a doctor's intervention. My wife had a severe reaction to birth control pills many years ago, and it could have been worse had the dosage been higher. Again, you must have a physician's opinion on these type of things.

I don't know what is behind this consideration, but I feel it is certainly ill advised.

Sincerely,



Wade H. Poole, III

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