



U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

www.dea.gov

Washington, D.C. 20537

DEC 27 2004

Ms. Siobhan Reynolds
President
Pain Relief Network
P.O. Box 231054
New York, New York 10023

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

Thank you for your letter dated November 26, 2004, addressed to Karen P. Tandy, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). You expressed concern that the DEA has adversely affected the availability of necessary pain relieving drugs. I assure you that the DEA supports all legal medical methods, including the legitimate prescribing of opioid analgesics, for the treatment of pain.

The DEA seeks to eliminate misconceptions that regulatory programs and drug law enforcement lead to the under-treatment of pain or interfere with the availability of drugs to treat pain. The DEA does not limit the use of controlled substances for legitimate medical purposes. The DEA supports the appropriate use of opioid analgesics in the treatment of pain experienced by a patient. These drugs have a legitimate clinical use and the physician should not hesitate to prescribe, dispense or administer them when they are indicated for a legitimate medical purpose.

The DEA has supported the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Guidelines for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain." The DEA recognizes that these guidelines are invaluable in assisting medical professionals in determining the appropriateness of opioid prescribing. We have enclosed a copy for your reference.

The DEA has developed a variety of awareness, educational and outreach initiatives designed to educate both the medical community and the public about the potential dangers involved in the abuse of pharmaceutical pain products and other controlled substances. For additional information regarding the DEA's Office of Diversion Control, you may access our web site at www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

I trust this information helps to allay your concerns about the DEA's commitment to ensuring that patients with legitimate medical needs have adequate access to pharmaceutical controlled substances. Should you have any additional concerns, please contact Staff Coordinator Demetra Ashley, in the Policy Unit, at (202) 307-7296.

Sincerely,



William J. Walker
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Diversion Control

Enclosure