

47

Crane, Nancy T

From: Dale Peterson, M.D. [dalepeterson@cox.net] 02-022N
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2002 6:17 PM 02-022N-417
To: Crane, Nancy T Dale H. Peterson
Subject: Codex Proposal

Dear Ms. Crane,

As a medical doctor I urge the withdrawal of item 5.9 of agenda item No. 6 in the draft guidelines for vitamin and mineral supplements, which states, "All labels should bear a statement that a supplement should be taken on an advice of a nutritionist, a dietitian, or a medical doctor".

While I have spent years becoming knowledgeable about appropriate supplementation, this was not a part of my undergraduate, postgraduate or continuing medical education. I am appalled at the lack of knowledge about supplements in the medical arena. This statement applies not only to physicians, but to dietitians as well. I interact with dietetic interns on a regular basis, and while they are knowledgeable about diet, they have very little understanding of the need for supplementation in illness and in health. To suggest that people who have little or no training or expertise regarding substances should be consulted about their use is not only unnecessary, it is irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Dale H. Peterson, M.D.