



MAY 16 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Paul Warnock
Ridgecrest Herbals, Inc.
1151 South Redwood Road
Suite 106
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

Ref. No. CL-05-HFS-810-159

Dear Mr. Warnock:

This is to advise you that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reviewed your web site at the Internet address <http://www.ridgecrestherbals.com> and has determined that the products "Blood Sugar Balance," "ClearLungs Red," and "VisionAid" are promoted for conditions that cause the products to be drugs under section 201(g)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act) [21 U.S.C. § 321(g)(1)]. The therapeutic claims on your web site establish that the products are drugs because they are intended for use in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease. The marketing of these products with these claims violates the Act.

Examples of some of the claims observed on your web site include:

Blood Sugar Balance

"Alternative To: Blood sugar prescription drugs."

"Benefits

A special formula to control blood sugar levels."

"Anamarrhena Root [an ingredient in the product]

This herb's ... expectorant, and diuretic properties...calm any condition resulting from stress on the endocrine system."

"There are 2 types of blood sugar ailments. One is called Hypoglycemia or Low Blood Sugar. ... The other type of blood sugar ailment is called Diabetes Mellitus or High Blood Sugar. ... **Serious Health Problems!** Both conditions are serious health problems that need to be corrected. ... **Unique Chinese Herbal Formula:** Blood Sugar Balance is a unique and highly effective Chinese herbal formula for balancing blood sugar that has been in used (*sic*) in the Orient for hundreds of years. It is 100% natural and produces no side effects."

ClearLungs Red - Classic herbal formula

"Alternative To: Primatene, Bronkaid and all lung congestion prescription drugs."

"Benefits

Provides temporary relief of shortness of breath, tightness of chest and wheezing due to bronchial congestion."

"Effectiveness

Works as quickly and effectively as drugs, but without the side effects."

"Scute [an ingredient in the product] - Headache pain relief."

"[T]he ingredients in ClearLungs ... work on the cause of lung congestion by ... reducing fluids, repairing tissue, controlling inflammation, etc."

VisionAid

"Alternative To: All prescription drugs for eye problems."

"Benefits

Effective for failing eyesight..."

"Clinical studies were conducted in Japan in 1957 by Dr. Shigenari Ogura and in 1975 by Dr. Ken Fujihiri.

Over 700 patients were treated with Pa-Wei-Ti-Huang-Wan (Chinese name for VisionAid) for a twelve month period. The results showed an 80% success rate in the treatment of senile cataracts."

Furthermore, your products are not generally recognized as safe and effective for the above referenced conditions and therefore, the products are also “new drugs” under section 201(p) of the Act [21 U.S.C. § 321(p)]. New drugs may not be legally marketed in the U.S. without prior approval from FDA as described in section 505(a) of the Act [21 U.S.C. § 355(a)]. FDA approves a new drug on the basis of scientific data submitted by a drug sponsor to demonstrate that the drug is safe and effective.

FDA is aware that Internet distributors may not know that the products they offer are regulated as drugs or that these drugs are not in compliance with the law. Many of these products may be legally marketed as dietary supplements if claims about diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention are removed from the promotional materials and the products otherwise comply with all applicable provisions of the Act and FDA regulations.

Under the Act, as amended by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, dietary supplements may be legally marketed with truthful and non-misleading claims to affect the structure or function of the body (structure/function claims), if certain requirements are met. However, claims that dietary supplements are intended to prevent, diagnose, mitigate, treat, or cure disease (disease claims), excepting health claims authorized for use by FDA, cause the products to be drugs. The intended use of a product may be established through product labels and labeling, catalogs, brochures, audio and videotapes, Internet sites, or other circumstances surrounding the distribution of the product. FDA has published a final rule intended to clarify the distinction between structure/function claims and disease claims. This document is available on the Internet at <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/fr000106.html> (codified at 21 C.F.R. § 101.93(g)).

In addition, only products that are intended for ingestion may be lawfully marketed as dietary supplements. Topical products and products intended to enter the body directly through the skin or mucosal tissues, such as transdermal or sublingual products, are not dietary supplements. For these products, both disease and structure/function claims may cause them to be new drugs.

Certain over-the-counter drugs are not new drugs and may be legally marketed without prior approval from FDA. Additional information is available in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (21 C.F.R.) Parts 310 and 330-358, which contain FDA's regulations on over-the-counter drugs.

This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive review of your web site and products your firm markets. It is your responsibility to ensure that all products marketed by your firm comply with the Act and its implementing regulations.

If you need additional information or have questions concerning any products distributed through your web site, please contact FDA. You may respond in writing to Linda J. Webb, Compliance Officer, Food and Drug Administration, Division of Dietary Supplement Programs, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Maryland 20740-3835. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Ms. Webb at (301) 436-2375.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Susan J. Walker, M.D.
Director
Division of Dietary Supplement Programs
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling
and Dietary Supplements
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition