



Press Office
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

STATEMENT
July 31, 2003

Media Inquiries:
Consumer Inquiries:

301-827-6242
888-INFO-FDA

STATEMENT FROM FDA COMMISSIONER MARK B. McCLELLAN, M.D.
ON FDA PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
WRITTEN PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS

FDA is undertaking major new efforts to ensure that consumers have the most up-to-date, useful information on the benefits and risks of FDA-regulated products.

It is one of my highest public health priorities to make sure that consumers receive reliable, easily accessible, understandable, and accurate information about FDA-regulated products. This meeting is part of that on-going effort.

We are pleased that the distribution rate of drug leaflets is currently almost 90 percent and well on the way to reach the mandated goal of 95 percent by the year 2006. However, all drug leaflets should clearly communicate reliable and comprehensive medication guidance on the prescribed product in order to perform the service required by the law, the FDA and our public.

Today's meeting provides an opportunity to discuss important next steps towards fulfilling the public's need for high-quality information that will enable consumers to take their medications more knowledgeably and safely. With the continued support of all those involved in developing and providing accurate information to patients, FDA is confident that these important goals for the distribution of useful information about prescription drugs to patients will be met. FDA looks forward to taking further steps to work with all interested parties to make sure this happens.

####

03N-0168

S 1