

# Craniofacial and Cleft Palate Diagnostic Clinic

AFFILIATED WITH PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

**Plastic Surgery**  
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May 18, 2001

**ATTN: Dockets Management Branch, FDA**

**Orthodontics**  
Steven Lash, D.D.S.  
John L. Spolyar, D.D.S.

**RE: [Docket No. 01N-0078]**

**Prosthodontics**  
Richard J. Persiani, D.D.S.  
Jonathan P. Wiens, D.D.S.

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Otorhinolaryngology**  
David M. Davis, M.D.  
Jeffery Weingarten, M.D.  
C. Bart Dickson, M.D.

**Neurosurgery**  
Blaise U. Audet, M.D.  
Daniel Pieper, M.D.

**Ophthalmology**  
Peter M. McCann, M.D.  
Lawrence Handler, M.D.

**Otology**  
Michael LaRouere, M.D.

**General Dentistry**  
Marshall Feuer, D.D.S.

**Pediatric Dentistry**  
Susan Carron, D.D.S.  
Claire Cullen, D.D.S.

**Pediatrician**  
Sanford Lax, M.D., *Family Practice*  
Jay Shayeveitz, M.D.  
Paula Chorazy, M.D., Ph.D.

**Genetics**  
David Aughton, M.D.

**Speech-Language Pathology**  
Amy Rogers, MSA, MA, CCC-SLP

**Clinical Dietitian**  
Julie Feldman, MPH, R.D.

**Occupational Therapist**  
Kendra Ross

**Social Work / Patient Advocate**  
Eva Forman, ACSW

**R.N.**  
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Jennifer Kroll, L.P.N.

**Department of Audiology**  
at Providence Hospital

Karen Ognian, *Secretary*

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I and my co-workers are opposed to the exorbitant amount of advertising being allowed regarding prescription drugs. Our employer has just passed on the high cost of health insurance premiums to us. A 2-person plan now costs \$60 per paycheck out of pocket. I have already experienced this when working at a previous employer in 1999, and this seems to be the trend every year. The pharmaceutical companies are just making TOO MUCH MONEY ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS! Seniors cannot afford to buy all their medications anymore. An individual without health insurance doesn't stand a chance of buying all their own medication and has to go begging for samples from their doctor! WHERE IS IT GOING TO STOP? Our health insurance makes it too expensive to go to the local pharmacy. Blue Cross Blue Shield has a "sweet deal" with Merck-Medco RX Services- in order to get your maintenance medications at the lowest co-pay possible, you have to order your drugs through the mail through Merck-Medco. In order to get a three-month supply of the medication for one co-pay (\$20), you have to buy through Merck-Medco. If you go through a local pharmacy, Blue Cross does not allow you to get three months for the \$20 co-pay. Merck-Medco has TOO MUCH POWER in this situation!

Back to the advertising of prescription medicine, the FDA must help individuals who are struggling with the already high cost of living and put a "muzzle" on the drug companies. PLEASE CURB THE AMOUNT OF ADVERTISING DRUG COMPANIES ARE ALLOWED, BOTH TO PATIENTS AND HOW THEY MARKET TO DOCTORS. I've heard that doctors are offered trips to Aruba if they sell certain medications! I learned of this through a 05-06 article in The Detroit News entitled "Pill Ads Raise Drug Costs" by Susan Webster. I learned that drug companies are being allowed, after a patent runs out on a medication, to market a new medication similar to the one they patent ran out on, in order to make the

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same high amount of money or higher! THIS IS PURE PRICE GOUGING! FDA: START WORKING FOR THE CITIZENS WHO ARE PAYING YOUR TAXES! PUT A "MUZZLE" ON THE DRUG COMPANIES! MAKE MEDICINE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE! This country is already suffering the affects of price gouging from many industries, but health care is one of the most important issues for the survival of our economy. I know that the cost of drug companies' advertising cannot possibly be being shouldered totally on their backs- they must be passing on the cost of advertising to consumers, which is driving up health care costs considerably. Businesses should not be allowed to cheat customers this way. FDA: PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Thank you.

Sincerely,



Karen Ognian

Secretary

Craniofacial and Cleft Palate Diagnostic Clinic

(affiliated with the Institute for Craniofacial & Reconstructive Surgery)

Providence Hospital

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