

*JAMAICA PLAIN ACUPUNCTURE
 AND HERBAL MEDICINE*
 780 CENTRE ST.
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4/4/03

ATTN: FDA
 REF: Docket No. 95N-0304

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Ma huang/ephedra is an absolutely essential herbal medicine in the Chinese pharmacopoeia for treatment of a wide range of serious respiratory illnesses. In the hands of a trained herbal practitioner, it is safe, effective and critical for patient care. "Trained herbal practitioner" refers to those who study, intern and master extensive, rigorous curriculum offered at acupuncture schools/colleges across the nation. "Trained herbal practitioner" refers to acupuncturists who have successfully completed national acupuncture board exams, who hold national certification and who are state licensed.

This very respected herb has been given a bad reputation by inappropriate use, fostered by the cynicism and greed of companies exploiting it for profit, companies who direct its usage for conditions egregiously unmatched to its 2,000-year, historically proven functions. These companies who have broadly marketed ephedra for "weight loss", "energy enhancement", or "athletic performance" have no association with, training in, or knowledge of, the Traditional Chinese Medicine pharmacopoeia .

It is overstepping for the FDA to exclude the use of ma huang/ephedra from herbalists/acupuncturists' repertoire owing to this egregious and irresponsible corporate greed. More responsible, and beneficial for the health care needs of the U.S population, would be for the FDA to recognize the authority of trained practitioners to diagnose illness, differentiate symptoms, and prescribe and dosage ma huang accordingly. The herbalist/acupuncturist uses ma huang repeatedly and safely, and with great success. We use pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies who maintain the highest standards of product processing and delivery.

Do not take this important medicinal out of herbalist /acupuncturist pharmacies. Do not intrude on our scope of practice. Do not squash our professional acumen in successfully treating our ailing patients. **Rather, provide for public safety by allowing the use of ma huang exclusively by qualified professionals, practitioners of acupuncture/ Oriental herbal medicine.**

Thank you for your time and your careful consideration of this matter,

Karen Kirchoff, Lic.Ac., Dipl.C.H.

95N-0304

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DATE: *4/4/03*
TO: *FOA: - fax 301-827-6870*
FROM: *Karen Kirchoff*
RE: *REF: Docket no. 95N-0302*

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MESSAGE: