

7 November 2001

Dear Pharmaceutical Company,

On August 2, 2001 Senate Bill 819 became Oregon law. My administration is now implementing this statute requiring the state to provide the most effective prescription drugs in the most cost-effective manner to patients in the Oregon Health Plan (Oregon's Medicaid program). For the first time in the history of the United States, a state Medicaid program will include a Practitioner-managed Prescription Drug Plan that utilizes evidence-based evaluations of the effectiveness of similar medications.

I have directed the Oregon Health Resources Commission (HRC) to conduct the evidence-based evaluation process. The HRC has selected four families of prescription drugs for the first set of evaluations: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, lipid lowering agents, anti-ulcer agents and opioid analgesics. Once the HRC has determined the relative effectiveness of the medications in question, we will place priority on using the least costly drugs among those found to be equally effective.

In order to effectively evaluate the drugs in question, it is important that the manufacturers of these medications provide HRC with relevant information regarding the effectiveness of their products. If your company sells a drug within one or more of the selected families, please reference the enclosed request for information from Dr. John Santa M.D, Administrator Oregon Health Plan Office of Policy and Research. Please submit relevant information by December 21, 2001.

If you or your staff has any questions or comments please contact Dr. John Santa at 503-378-2422 x411

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.

JAK:HHL