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October 30, 2000

Jeffrey Koplan, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Centers for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Koplan:

The CDC Oral Health Resources website hosts a page promoting and recommending dosages for **children's dietary fluoride supplements. The FDA has not approved these drugs.** I am interested to know how it is that the CDC is promoting the use of a prescription drug which is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. I note that the CDC webpage prominently informs the public of the approvals of the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry but fails to mention that the lack of FDA approval.

I would also like to know if there are any other drugs which the FDA has not approved which are promoted by the CDC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John V. Kelly", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John V. Kelly
Assemblyman District 36

JK/ah

Enc.

cc: Senator Robert Smith
Congressman Ken Calvert
Congressman James Sensenbrenn

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Oral Health Resources

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Dietary Fluoride Supplement Schedule

Approved by the
American Dental Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

| Age | Fluoride ion level in drinking water (ppm)* | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------|----------|
| | <0.3 ppm | 0.3 - 0.6 ppm | >0.6 ppm |
| Birth - 6 months | None | None | None |
| 6 months - 3 years | 0.25 mg/day ** | None | None |
| 3 - 6 years | 0.50 mg/day | 0.25 mg/day | None |
| 6 - 16 years | 1.0 mg/day | 0.50 mg/day | None |

* 0.1 part per million (ppm) = 1 milligram/liter (mg/L) ← *[0.1 ppm listed here incorrect; should be 1 ppm = 1 mg/L]*

** 2.2 mg sodium fluoride contains 1 mg fluoride ion.

It is suggested that only children living in non-fluoridated areas use dietary fluoride supplements between the ages of six months to 16 years. Your physician or dentist can prescribe the correct dosage for your child based on the following considerations.

Level of fluoride in your drinking water. If the fluoride level is not known, it should be tested first. State and local health departments can provide information on testing drinking water for fluoride levels.

A complete fluoride history should include all the your child's sources of fluoride. Don't forget all water sources, or the amount and frequency of fluoridated toothpaste used when toothbrushing.

If your child is to benefit from the cavity protection that dietary fluoride supplements can provide, long-term use on a daily basis is needed.

References

American Dental Association

American Dental Association, Council on Access Prevention and Interprofessional Relations. Caries diagnosis and risk assessment: a review of preventive strategies and management. J Am Dent Assoc 1995;126(Suppl).

Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Special Issue: Reference Manual, 1994-1995. Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Pediatric Dentistry 1994-1995; 16(7):1-96.

American Academy of Pediatrics

Committee on Nutrition, American Academy of Pediatrics. Fluoride supplementation for children: interim policy recommendations. Pediatrics 1995, 95(5):777.

Children's Oral Health

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