

SUBJECT: Message on the Opioid Crisis

DATE: 11/19/17



Dear Retirees:

It seems that each day brings more news reports about the devastating impact the opioid abuse and addiction epidemic is having on our country and communities. You may have seen media reports which mention Johnson & Johnson in connection with the crisis. In fact, several State Attorneys General and dozens of counties and local municipalities around the country have named us in lawsuits along with other pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors.

With the Thanksgiving Holiday approaching, a time when most of us will gather with family and friends, you might get questions about these reports and the lawsuits naming Johnson & Johnson. On behalf of the Management Committee, we thought it might be useful to share some information with you about this public health crisis – and how Janssen and J&J have acted in the best interests of patients and physicians in developing and selling opioid-based pain medication.

Opioid-based pain medicines give doctors and patients important choices to help manage the debilitating effects of chronic pain, which affects millions of Americans and can place tremendous emotional and financial burdens on patients and their families. However, there are risks associated with the use of prescription opioid medicines. That's why opioid pain medicines are highly regulated with FDA-approved warnings on the labeling and must only be obtained through and taken as directed by licensed physicians.

Here is what you should know about our medicines and our actions, and why the allegations in these lawsuits are not true:

- Our products named in these lawsuits, DURAGESIC® (fentanyl transdermal system) and NUCYNTA® (tapentadol), have provided physicians and patients with safe, innovative options to treat pain, as approved by FDA and other regulatory agencies.
- These products have accounted for less than 1% of the prescription opioid market over the last 10 years. In fact, we divested NUCYNTA several years ago and stopped promoting DURAGESIC in 2006. Last year, our remaining opioid medicine business was around .03 % of the U.S. market (that represents 3 out of every 10,000 prescriptions).
- These products had (and continue to have) some of the lowest rates of abuse among opioid pain medicines.
- Our product labeling has always included explicit warnings about possible risks of addiction, abuse and misuse. NUCYNTA, for example, included a patient medication guide that was provided to patients by their pharmacist and prescriber notification letters and trainings.
- Promotional materials and speaker programs have always included clear warnings of risks of addiction, as have our established educational programs – online and

off – about the safe and responsible use of pain medicines to help deter abuse and addiction.

At the same time, we recognize opioid abuse and addiction is a serious public health issue that must be addressed. The opioid crisis is a complex issue that has been cited as resulting from a combination of factors, including the increased availability of illegal heroin and illicitly-made opioids, overprescribing of pain medications, the cost (and lack of insurance coverage) for less addictive forms of opioids and the practices of some pharmaceutical distributors and pharmacists.

Just as there is no single cause to the opioid crisis, there can be no single solution.

Addressing opioid abuse will require collaboration among many stakeholders. We are committed to partnering with others to help find solutions for people and their families dealing with this crisis every day. Here are some of the things we are working on:

- Collaborating across industry and in partnerships with government agencies and others to help find solutions to address the epidemic.
- Working with the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) to support a seven-day limit on prescriptions of opioids to treat acute pain and expand prescribing training requirements and informational tools, as well as other policy options to address abuse and addiction.
- Engaging with the National Institutes of Health on initiatives and meeting with the Administration and members of Congress to discuss partnering with the government and others.
- Exploring other ways that J&J can help address this crisis – both in partnerships with others as well as in our own unique ways. We will keep you advised as our plans develop.

Johnson & Johnson is a global healthcare leader in combatting serious public health issues – HIV, obesity, Ebola and Zika – just to name a few. We are bringing the same passion and energy to addressing opioid abuse and addiction and will continue to work with other stakeholders to move efforts forward.

We encourage you or anyone you know affected by this epidemic to visit the U.S. Department of Health & Human services website at <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/> for information and assistance.

On behalf of the Management Committee, we hope that the Thanksgiving Holiday finds you and your family and friends, healthy, safe and sound.

Sincerely,



Mike Ullmann  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel