February 18, 2015

Ms. Tami Eide
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
3232 Elder Street
Boise, ID 83709

Dear Ms. Eide,

As a collective voice of multidisciplinary practitioners concerned about fail first and step therapy practices, we encourage you to improve access to the only FDA-approved therapy for nausea and vomiting of pregnancy (NVP).

We are concerned because requiring patients to try and fail on one or more medications not indicated for a particular medical condition could jeopardize patient health and prolong suffering when access to care is delayed. Further, it subjects patients to unintended consequences associated with exposure to medications that may not have been well studied for use in treating a particular medical condition.

We would like to point you to several reputable sources that address the safety risks associated with products used off-label to treat NVP. These are professional governing societies providing recommendations for pregnant women to use FDA-approved medications for NVP.

- The **Association for Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses** (AWHONN) February/March 2014 edition of Nursing for Women's Health article, *A New Pharmacologic Treatment for Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy*[1]

[1] http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/1751-486X.12096/

- The **Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics** (APGO), *Educational Series on Women's Health Issues*, focusing on Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy[2]

- The **New England Journal of Medicine** March 20, 2014 perspective, *FDA Approval of Doxylamine–Pyridoxine Therapy for Use in Pregnancy*[3]

- The **Journal of Family Practice** February 2014 article, *Pharmacologic Management of Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy*[4]

Since NVP is a short term condition, it is important that we work together to ensure pregnant women have immediate and uninterrupted access to appropriate medication. Please improve access to the only FDA-approved therapy for nausea and vomiting of pregnancy.

Respectfully Submitted,

National Perinatal Association
Bernadette Hoppe, M.A., J.D., M.P.H., President
Alliance for Patient Access
Brian Kennedy, Executive Director
American Sexual Health Association
Deborah Arrindell, Vice President, Health Policy
Center for Medicine in the Public Interest
Peter Pitts, President
Faith Community Nurses International
Beverly Siegrist, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, Chair
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
Janice Frey-Angel, CEO
HealthyWomen
Beth Bettaglino, RN, President and CEO
Men's Health Network
Ana Fadich, MPH, CHES, Vice President
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
Jose Alejandra, PhD, RN-BC, MBA, CCM, FACHE, President
National Association of Perinatal Social Workers
Lisa Baker, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., P.I.P., President
US Pain Foundation
Paul Gileno, President and Founder

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[2] https://www.apgo.org/education/women/nausea-and-vomiting-of-pregnancy.html

[3] http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1316042

[4] http://www.jfponline.com/index.php?id=21913