

June 25, 2019

Ms. Crystal Demott
Procurement Director
Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Submitted via email: Solicitation.questions@ahca.myflorida.com

Dear Ms. Demott:

As a state organization representing community cancer provider practices that care for our cancer patients, we are extremely concerned with the proposed policy that would allow the importation of drugs from Canada or anywhere outside of the United States and welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Request for Information 003-18/19.

Aside from the obvious issues with importation of pain medications that Florida has experienced over the past several years, cancer patients may be at risk of not receiving the appropriate quantity and quality of medication they have come to expect, or quite possibly fake medication as we have also experienced in recent years.

There are currently a number of Florida physicians serving prison sentences for administering cancer drugs obtained on the black market, placing patients lives at stake is not the answer and has done little to control patient costs.

Counterfeit drugs are a real concern and the harm they do is not reversible! In addition to the issues noted above, we cannot be certain the same quality standards applied to manufacturing processes here in the US apply to companies importing medications to at risk Floridians. We ask that you reconsider allowing the importation of drugs from Canada or elsewhere and protect the health and well-being of all Floridians and review every vendor application with deep thought given the risks and concerns of physicians, pharmacists, and patients who have deep-rooted concerns with this program.

Respectfully,

Michelle Smith Flowers
President Reimbursement/Legislative Policy
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