DHCS
DAVID MAXWELL-JOLLY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510-6200

COPY

Dear Senator Grassley:

Your letter to Toby Douglas, Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs was referred to me for a response. Thank you for your interest in controlling health care costs and assuring the most appropriate use of prescription drugs within the nation's Medicaid programs. We share your interest in protecting the Medicaid program from fraud, waste and abuse and in that spirit, are providing you with the information in the format you requested.

We caution, however, against the potential for misuse or misinterpretation of this information if used independently and without regard for the multitude of factors that should be considered. Using the raw data in a vacuum could result in serious and unfounded allegations being made against physicians for whom there is no reasonable or credible reason to believe the physician may have violated any law or regulation.

We respectfully note that while high rates of mental health or pain medication utilization are worthy of examination, they should not be considered absolute indicators of fraud and abuse, without consideration for other factors including, but not limited to, physicians' specialties, geographic locations and population demographics, to name just a few.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Pilar Williams
Chief, Pharmacy Benefits Division
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure

cc: Toby Douglas
Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs
Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Ave, Suite 6001, MS 0002
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Grassley's Office Request for Drug Data

Top Ten Medi-Cal Prescribers of Abilify (name brand only) for Calendar Year 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Prescriber Name	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medi-Cal
1114041712	GREWAL, HARINDER MD	960	$ 523,725
1609987510	QUISLING, STEWART MD	467	512,645
1669577896	KING, AUBREY ANCIL MD	923	429,196
1427263953	SCHAVE, DOUGLAS JAY MD	486	428,203
1982817466	SCHWERDTFEGER, HARRY DONALD MD	796	397,752
1114952876	MATALON, LEOR MATALON MD	860	384,162
1336188739	HAMRANG, SULTANA NOORI MD	695	350,887
1043378193	HENDERSON, HARRY C. III MD	603	347,299
1134281272	TON-THAT, NIEM MD	822	344,972
1568505931	CIASCA, RICHARD MD	708	342,400

Top Ten Medi-Cal Prescribers of Geodon (name brand only) for Calendar Year 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Prescriber Name	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medi-Cal
1861459109	CHATSUTHIPHAN, VISIT MD	946	$ 369,111
1043378193	HENDERSON, HARRY C. III MD	534	313,452
1114041712	GREWAL, HARINDER MD	486	187,473
1043356850	AHMAD, BUSHRA F. MD	308	150,286
1295802700	SMITH, SAMUEL PENNEY MD	269	141,804
1538167986	BROWN, PATRICK MD	452	135,887
1568567105	JAVEED, SURYABANU	286	124,015
1760565154	BARNETT, MICHAEL S. MD	329	115,364
1992718654	KASSEM, ZOHEIR HAMED MD	145	113,199
1427190487	GAREWAL, JAGDEEP SINGH MD	272	109,014

Top Ten Medi-Cal Prescribers of Zyprexa (name brand only) for Calendar Year 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Prescriber Name	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medi-Cal
1730274176	KUSHNIR, YAROSLAV MD	755	$ 568,637
1982796165	PATTARA, SANTI MD	955	524,962
1134281272	TON-THAT, NIEM MD	1,267	473,489
1538101506	WONG, JON MD	504	434,845
1205902301	TON-THAT, CHAU DO	1,045	405,797
1386610988	MAKHANI, MEHBOOB ALI MD	503	398,796
1316030323	NEZHADIAN, FRANK MD	507	355,440
1780732941	SELVAGE, CHRIS T. MD	451	351,168
1659382588	ALLEN, JOHN W. MD	418	346,569
1063423903	OHIAERI, IKECHUKWU ANELE MD	410	332,881

Source : Californial Medi-Cal Pharmacy Paid Claims for 2009

Senator Grassley's Office Request for Drug Data

Top Ten Medi-Cal Prescribers of Oxycontin (name brand only) for Calendar Year 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Prescriber Name	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medi-Cal
1417945684	GIOVANNINI, ANDREW M. MD	784	$ 800,885
1972691418	MANOUGIAN, EDWARD MD	366	708,764
1518957539	MONROY, ANDREW G. MD	338	428,179
1720002231	SCHULLER, ARTHUR BRUNO MD	191	409,973
1215009113	ALI, ASHMEAD MD	258	375,860
1386653004	SHEA, SUSAN I. NP	145	369,644
1356324909	THOMAS NEUSCHATZ MD	281	293,528
1750393351	ECHAVES, STEPHEN ARTHUR PHARMD	243	230,970
1770571515	GOYAL, HARI O. MD	272	203,275
1144461567	GUTIERREZ, ALFONSO PA-C	185	180,710

Top Ten Medi-Cal Prescribers of Xanax (name brand only) for Calendar Year 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Prescriber Name	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medi-Cal
1720179385	SMITH, MICHAEL WILLIAM MD	8	$ 3,830
1255542908	HEIDENFELDER, RICHARD P.	13	3,395
1619015039	HENRY, EDWIN JAY PAC	13	3,044
1043378193	HENDERSON, HARRY C. III MD	11	2,703
1538152830	SAMTOY, HENRY MD	13	2,653
1447366018	SOGHOMONIAN, ARA K. MD	17	2,625
1649299876	JINAMORNPHONGS, SUCHAYA	7	2,520
1467409441	SMITH, KATHERINE H. MD	15	2,462
1689626483	PADUA, DANIEL NATIOLA PADUA III MD	12	2,447
1265415277	MILLS, ELISEO JR. MD	6	2,437

Source : Californial Medi-Cal Pharmacy Paid Claims for 2009