



For Immediate Release

Contact: Yvonne Lee  
415-370-1576

**In response to the Federal Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new rules on the restricted use of the diabetes drug, Avandia, the National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) issues the following statement:**

"NCAPIP welcomes the new FDA rules on Avandia which will allow restricted access to the medication when appropriate, but will also require that patients using Avandia sign a waiver acknowledging their awareness of the drug's potential health risks. NCAPIP continues to recommend that patients on Avandia consult with their physicians regarding its appropriateness to their diabetes treatment."

NCAPIP is concerned that under the new rule, patients continuing on Avandia will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging their awareness of the drug's potential health risks. A significant part of the Asian American and Pacific Islander population is limited English proficient. Therefore, NCAPIP urges the FDA to include in its final directive that any verbal and written communications must be provided in a linguistically and culturally competent manner to ensure that current and future patients who choose to remain on Avandia are fully aware of the impact this drug may have.

**NCAPIP is a national membership organization representing the interests of its members and patient communities. It is dedicated to the advancement of health equity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders and other under-resourced communities through policy advocacy and public engagement.**