



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians wishes to issue the following public statement in response to the federal Food and Drug Administration Advisory Committee's recommendation to restrict the use of the diabetes drug, Avandia.

Washington, D.C. --- Today, an advisory committee to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) voted to restrict the use of Avandia, one of the diabetes drugs currently available to diabetic patients. Based on this recommendation, the FDA is expected to issue its final decision soon.

The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) recognizes that since many Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are affected by diabetes, this news may cause anxieties to them and their families. As medical practitioners, we strongly urge concerned individuals to first consult with their physicians for any questions they may have regarding their diabetes treatment. It is critically important for patients to always check with their physicians on any concerns relating to their health needs and treatments.

According to the federal Office of Minority Health, nearly one in ten Asian Americans and one in five Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are diagnosed with diabetes. Other studies have indicated 90% of the Asian American diabetics have Type-2 diabetes, an adult onset version. Unlike the broader population for which obesity is a major contributing factor for Type -2 diabetes, Asian Americans with otherwise acceptable weight are also susceptible to be affected by diabetes, which is the 4th leading cause of death among Asian Americans.

The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) is a non profit membership organization dedicated to the advancement of health status and well being of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

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