

We had so much faith in the F.D.A.—Drug Mfr. and Doctors—that we cannot yet comprehend this terrible thing. Dr. ——— hematologist ——— termed her death “a monumental disaster and a great tragedy.”

If Parke-Davis and the Doctors could realize how it takes lives needlessly, and ruins families. I cannot believe they would allow it to be used so freely.

This is a personal plea for more action to safeguard others.

Money could never replace my daughter—but a lawsuit either against the Doctor who administered the drug or Parke-Davis might impress upon them that the victims will not tolerate the present methods.

I would appreciate an answer from you at your convenience—do we have any chance in a lawsuit?

I telephoned your Administrative Assistant last night and he requested I write you this letter.

I wish to thank you in advance for any consideration you give us. The count is now 61 rather than 60 needless deaths.

Respectfully,

NAME WITHHELD.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C., February 2, 1968.

———, TEXAS.

DEAR NAME WITHHELD: This responds to your letter urging that the drug Chloromycetin be taken off the market because of the serious side effects it can have.

We can understand your personal concern and know you will be interested in details on the re-evaluation of this drug as long ago as 1952, when the harmful side effects became recognized as a serious problem, and again in 1961. We accumulated all available data on the drug and presented the facts to a special committee of outstanding medical experts appointed by the National Research Council. After careful deliberation, that committee concluded that Chloromycetin is a life-saving drug in certain illnesses where other safer drugs are not effective, and recommended that it be permitted to remain on the market for such purpose. They recommended that its labeling plainly warn physicians that the drug may cause serious blood disturbances and that it should not be used indiscriminately or for minor infections.

Sincerely yours,

JEANNE M. MANGELS,
Consumer Inquiries Staff, Office of Education and Information.

WISCONSIN, December 28, 1967.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON: I have been informed you are presently investigating, some drugs. I would like to know if one of them is Chloromycetin. I was prescribed this drug for a minor infection in 1965 and the result was my getting aplastic anemia. Which is the destruction or depression of the bone marrow. After many times in the hospital and much doctoring, I am hopeful of making a complete recovery. Due to my own experience, I am interested in the drug, Chloromycetin. Due to the serious complications this drug can cause, I would like to see it taken off the market, so what I have experienced wouldn't happen to anyone else.

I am enclosing a copy of an article in Good Housekeeping magazine November 1966 about Chloromycetin.

Yours truly,

NAME WITHHELD.

PARKE, DAVIS & Co.,
Detroit, Mich., December 28, 1967.

———, TEXAS.

DEAR MRS. NAME WITHHELD: I have your letter of December 17 with respect to the illness and hospitalization of your husband and can appreciate your concern.

Unfortunately, there are probably no effective drugs which may not on occasion give rise to serious adverse reactions in some patients. This is a continuing