

April xx, 2022

Robert M. Califf, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

RE: Finalization of Sunlamp Rule and Amendment to Performance Standard

Dear Commissioner Califf:

The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention (NCSCP) applauds the Food and Drug Administration's response to Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's letter of August 6, 2021 in which the Congresswoman and her colleagues requested that FDA finalize the proposed rules entitled *General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products* (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-1765); and the *Sunlamp Products; Proposed Amendment to Performance Standard* (Docket No. FDA-1998-N-0880). The FDA expressly stated that "the proposed rulemaking continues to be a priority for both the Agency and the administration, and it is currently listed as part of the administration's Unified Agenda with a target date for a final rule in May 2022."

The NCSCP, which represents the nation's premier researchers, clinicians, and advocates for melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer prevention from more than 40 organizations and associations devoted to educating the public about skin cancer and the risks of ultraviolet light exposure, strongly support the Food and Drug Administration and its commitment to finalize the proposed sunlamp rules and will communicate its strong support to our champions in Congress.

We again commend the FDA for issuing the proposed rule prohibiting minors under age 18 throughout the U.S. from using tanning beds and requiring that adult tanning bed users be informed about the serious health risks of indoor tanning through a risk acknowledgement certification – including the increased risk of developing potentially fatal melanoma and other skin cancers. As stated in many past comment letters from our members, parental consent is inadequate to protect children and adolescents from the risks of indoor tanning, particularly exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation – a known human carcinogen.

More Than Two People Die of Skin Cancer in the U.S. Every Hour ⁱ

Skin cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer and current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.ⁱⁱ Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults ages 25-29 and the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-25 years old.ⁱⁱⁱ Exposure to UV radiation from tanning beds at young ages contributes to the development of skin cancer, including the potentially deadly melanoma, in young people.^{iv} The cost of treating all skin cancers in the U.S. is estimated at \$8.1 billion each year.^v Clearly, swift action must be taken to reduce the risks associated with skin cancer.

Sunlamp Products Increase Users' Risk of Developing Skin Cancer

Sunlamp products, otherwise known as indoor tanning beds and booths, emit ultraviolet (UV) radiation that is a known human carcinogen.^{vi} Studies have found that indoor tanning devices can emit UV radiation in amounts 10 to 15 times higher than the sun at its peak intensity.^{vii} Evidence from several studies has shown that exposure to UV radiation from indoor tanning devices is associated with an increased risk of melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC), including squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma.^{viii} Each year, more than 419,000 cases of skin cancer, including both melanoma and NMSC, are linked to indoor tanning in the U.S. alone.^{ix} Other studies have found a 59 percent increase in the risk of melanoma in those who have been exposed to UV radiation from indoor tanning, and the risk increases with each use.^x Even a single indoor tanning session can increase users' risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by 67 percent and basal cell carcinoma by 29 percent.^{xi} Despite these significant risks, approximately 7.8 million adults in the United States still engage in indoor tanning.^{xii}

Currently, 22 states plus the District of Columbia prohibit people younger than 18 from using indoor tanning devices.^{xiii} Globally, 13 countries have banned indoor tanning for people younger than age 18 and two countries have banned indoor tanning altogether.^{xiv}

FDA is in a unique position to finish what was started several years ago with the indoor tanning ban for minors and the proposed rule that was published, but not finalized. Finalizing the proposed sunlamp rules will have a significant impact in reducing the incidence of melanoma and other skin cancers in the United States. The NCSCP urges FDA to stay true to the stated timeline and finalize the rules in May 2022.

The endorsing National Council organizations listed below thank you for considering our views.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the FDA in furtherance of protecting the public's health. Should you have any questions, please contact me, at 301.801.4422 or antonishak@skincancerprevention.org.

Sincerely,



John D. Antonishak
NCSCP Executive Director

Endorsing Organizations:

American Academy of Dermatology Association
IMPACT Melanoma
Melanoma Research Alliance
Melanoma Research Foundation
The Skin Cancer Foundation

ⁱ Cancer Facts and Figures 2021. American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2021/cancer-facts-and-figures-2021.pdf>. Accessed January 13, 2021

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- ⁱⁱⁱ Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program 18 registries. Data run July 25, 2018.
- ^{iv} Schulman JM, Fisher DE. Indoor ultraviolet tanning and skin cancer: health risks and opportunities. *Curr Opin Oncol*. 2009;21(2):144-149. doi:10.1097/CCO.0b013e3283252fc5
- ^v Guy GP Jr, Machlin SR, Ekwueme DU, Yabroff KR. Prevalence and costs of skin cancer treatment in the U.S., 2002-2006 and 2007-2011. *Am J Prev Med*. 2015 Feb;48(2):183-7.
- ^{vi} Ultraviolet-radiation-related exposures. Broad-spectrum UVR, pp. 1-5. NTP (National Toxicology Program). 2014. *Report on Carcinogens*, Thirteenth Edition. Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/content/profiles/ultravioletradiationrelatedexposures.pdf>. Accessed January 26, 2018.
- ^{vii} Le Clair MZ, Cockburn MG. Tanning bed use and melanoma: Establishing risk and improving prevention interventions. *Prev Med Rep*. 2016; 3:139-144. Published 2016 Jan 14. doi:10.1016/j.pmedr.2015.11.016
- ^{viii} See, eg, Whitmore SE, Morison WL, Potten CS, Chadwick C. Tanning salon exposure and molecular alterations. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2001;44:775-80. See also Swerdlow AJ, Weinstock MA. Do tanning lamps cause melanoma? An epidemiologic assessment. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1998;38:89-98; The International Agency for Research on Cancer Working Group on artificial ultraviolet (UV) light and skin cancer "The association of use of sunbeds with cutaneous malignant melanoma and other skin cancers: A systematic review." *International Journal of Cancer*. 2007 March 1;120:111-1122; Karagas M, et al. "Use of tanning devices and risk of basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers." *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. 2002 February 6;94(3):224-6.
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- ^x Lazovich, D, et al. "Indoor Tanning and Risk of Melanoma: A Case-Control Study in a Highly Exposed Population." *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2010 June;19(6):1557-1568; The International Agency for Research on Cancer Working Group on artificial ultraviolet (UV) light and skin cancer "The association of use of sunbeds with cutaneous malignant melanoma and other skin cancers: A systematic review." *International Journal of Cancer*. 2007 March 1;120:111-1122; Cutaneous melanoma attributable to sunbed use: systematic review and meta-analysis. *British Medical Journal* 2012;345:e4757; Corrections: Cutaneous melanoma attributable to sunbed use: systematic review and meta-analysis. *British Medical Journal* 2012;345:e8503.
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- ^{xiii} Indoor tanning restrictions for minors — a state-by-state comparison. NCSL, National Conference of State Legislatures. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/indoor-tanning-restrictions.aspx>. Accessed March 25, 2022.
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