- 1 stimulant drugs. We don't know about the
- 2 cataplectic narcoleptics who weren't. So, I wanted
- 3 to reflect what we actually looked at, the
- 4 scientific evidence.
- DR. KATZ: And, would that be the basis
- 6 for your no vote as well?
- 7 DR. SIMPSON: Well, mine is really that
- 8 they reduced cataplectic events. I guess my
- 9 understanding of treating it is that they couldn't
- 10 sort of cure it.
- DR. PENN: May I just clarify? I didn't
- 12 mean cure. My motion was not cure, nor did I say
- 13 monotherapy.
- 14 DR. KATZ: Right, From the point of view
- 15 of an effect, you know, that sort of language only
- 16 being applied to a cure, the vast majority of
- 17 things we treat and give claims for in indications
- 18 are for symptomatic, non-curative treatment. So,
- 19 it is perfectly acceptable for us -- and I think it
- 20 was implied in Dr. Penn's motion that to vote yes
- 21 you wouldn't necessarily have to conclude that the
- 22 drug cures it or wipes these attacks out, but just
- 23 that there is a decrease in these attacks compared
- 24 to the control.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: And you can call it

- 1 monotherapy but what the subjects were in these
- 2 studies were subjects with the condition that were
- 3 already under medication for this condition. So,
- 4 to take that leap to say, well, therefore, if you
- 5 have people with this condition who are not on
- 6 stimulant drugs, does that follow? I don't believe
- 7 it does.
- 8 DR. KATZ: We will take that under
- 9 advisement.
- 10 DR. KAWAS: The next question, has the
- 11 sponsor demonstrated efficacy of Xyrem for the
- 12 proposed indication to reduce excessive daytime
- 13 sleepiness in patients with narcolepsy? The floor
- 14 is open for discussion on this point.
- 15 At the risk of putting myself back in the
- 16 same place as last time, I would summarize what we
- 17 have seen today with regards to excessive daytime
- 18 sleepiness that there was one study, in a
- 19 double-blind fashion, that showed subjective
- 20 changes in sleepiness with the Epworth Scale, and
- 21 that would be the GHB-2 study. The other study
- 22 which is being held up as a pivotal study with
- 23 regards to daytime sleepiness was the Lammers
- 24 study, which is a small study. Otherwise, I feel
- 25 that the evidence with regards to daytime

- 1 sleepiness was very weak at best, in particular,
- 2 the only study that proactively made daytime
- 3 sleepiness the primary outcome measure as well as
- 4 using objective measures with the MSLT was, in
- 5 fact, negative. All the other studies were open
- 6 label. So, here I have a little more --
- 7 considerably more difficulty actually seeing that
- 8 the sponsor has demonstrated efficacy for daytime
- 9 sleepiness. So, what are the committee's thoughts
- 10 on this? What are the committee's comments on
- 11 this? Jerry?
- 12 DR. WOLINSKY: As I tried to point out
- 13 before, I think this is such an enriched patient
- 14 population for purposes of the endpoints that were
- 15 studied, it is hard to know that one could
- 16 generalize daytime sleepiness effects in a full
- 17 population of narcoleptics. So, I agree that the
- 18 data is weak and it is also in a very enriched
- 19 population.
- DR. KAWAS: I am not sure I understand.
- 21 For clarification, enriched with what? You mean
- 22 enriched for cataplexy?
- DR. WOLINSKY: Enriched for cataplexy
- 24 which is not present in all narcoleptics and is not
- 25 always present at this frequency. So, I don't

- 1 think that we would know. I would not know as a
- 2 clinical that if I had a narcoleptic with sleep
- 3 attacks or daytime sleepiness but no cataplectic
- 4 attacks whether I could expect the drug to work or
- 5 not, and I saw no data to tell me that I could.
- 6 DR. KAWAS: Any other comments? Any other
- 7 thoughts before we call the vote on this question?
- 8 DR. PENN: I move that the company has not
- 9 provided information to prove that daytime
- 10 sleepiness is affected by Xyrem, and I would make a
- 11 comment on my motion, that if the company sees this
- 12 as an important thing they can do a post-approval
- 13 study on that specific item and that would be
- 14 appropriate. I was leaning at the beginning of
- 15 this to think that there was too much need for full
- 16 proof on an orphan drug that this might be the case
- 17 and I was going to give them the benefit of the
- 18 doubt, but considering the potential for abuse in
- 19 patients who will say they are just sleepy and the
- 20 regulatory problems with that, I think we had
- 21 better be quite strict on this.
- DR. KAWAS: Can you make that motion
- 23 without the addendum?
- DR. PENN: No, no, the addendum is just my
- 25 comment.

1 DR. KAWAS: Good. Give me the short

- 2 motion.
- 3 DR. PENN: They didn't prove their point.
- 4 DR. KAWAS: The language is has the
- 5 sponsor demonstrated efficacy of Xyrem for the
- 6 proposed indication to treat excessive daytime
- 7 sleepiness in patients with narcolepsy? So, a vote
- 8 of yes the way I just worded it would suggest that
- 9 the company has shown efficacy, similar to the last
- 10 vote. A vote of no would suggest that the company
- 11 has not shown efficacy for that particular
- 12 indication. So, all in favor of yes, the company
- 13 has shown efficacy for the indication of daytime
- 14 sleepiness, please raise your hand.
- 15 [No show of hands]
- 16 All if favor of no?
- [Show of hands]
- 18 Let the record show that it was unanimous.
- 19 It might be the only time today.
- DR. TITUS: And enter nine names please
- 21 into the record.
- 22 [Drs. Penix, Van Belle, Penn, Kawas,
- 23 Wolinsky, Roman, Falkowski, Simpson and Lacey voted
- 24 against the motion]
- DR. KAWAS: Now, the second question that

- 1 the FDA has asked us to vote on is has the sponsor
- 2 established the safety of Xyrem when used for the
- 3 proposed indication for which substantial evidence
- 4 of effectiveness has been submitted?
- Now, given our previous vote, we are
- 6 talking about substantial evidence for the
- 7 effectiveness to treat cataplexy, and I want to go
- 8 ahead and put in here that I think most of the
- 9 committee members have been of the opinion that the
- 10 substantial evidence is almost exclusively in the 9
- 11 g dose range. So, I think we are talking about has
- 12 the sponsor established safety of Xyrem when used
- 13 for cataplexy at a dose of 9 g per day, for the
- 14 most part. The floor is open for discussion on
- 15 this question.
- DR. SIMPSON: Could one of the physicians
- 17 put the adverse events that one can see in the 9 g
- 18 in perspective?
- DR. KAWAS: Let me let Dr. Katz and Dr.
- 20 Mani answer the question. Dr. Katz?
- 21 DR. KATZ: Yes, this is why the dose which
- 22 you think is effective is important. It might be
- 23 useful, before you decide whether or not the safety
- 24 has been established at 9 g, to have a look at what
- 25 the total exposure at the 9 g dose is and whether

- or not you think that is acceptable, as a first
- 2 step, independent of whether or not it seemed to
- 3 have been tolerated, with enough people at 9 g with
- 4 sufficient duration. So, I don't know if the firm
- 5 could put up a slide. I think Ranjit has an
- 6 overhead.
- 7 DR. KAWAS: Slide 67 from the company,
- 8 updated ISS database, summary patient exposure by
- 9 dose. By my calculations we are talking about 60
- 10 years, person years of exposure on the 9 g dose
- 11 from the integrated data set.
- DR. MANI: I am sorry, I don't believe it
- 13 is patient years, is it? It is the number of
- 14 patients.
- DR. KAWAS: Well, I calculated it because
- 16 there were 13 patients who had been on it for 2
- 17 years or more and 34 patients who had been on it 12
- 18 months or more. So, it was just 2 times 13 plus
- 19 34. That is the way I cam to the 60 person year
- 20 estimate. I actually didn't give them any credit
- 21 for the 6-month exposure.
- 22 Actually, I have a question to ask of the
- 23 company, do each years subsume the others? So, the
- 24 13 individuals who were in the 2-year category, are
- 25 they also included in the 62 who are in the 6-month

- 1 category and the 34?
- DR. REARDAN: Yes, I believe that is
- 3 correct, Dr. Kawas, the 13 patients would be
- 4 included in the 34, and the 34 would be included in
- 5 the 62.
- 6 DR. KAWAS: So, the math is more
- 7 complicated than I made it out to be, actually. It
- 8 still comes to about 47 patient years of exposure
- 9 by my calculation. I believe that the standard
- 10 generally if it is considered acceptable is
- 11 considerably higher than that. Perhaps Dr. Katz
- 12 would like to comment on that, particularly in the
- 13 case of an orphan drug with a relatively small
- 14 patient population.
- DR. KATZ: Yes, the typical minimum
- 16 requirements for an application for a standard drug
- 17 that is not an orphan -- we will start there
- 18 because we have such standards written, is at least
- 19 1500 patients total or subjects total, with at
- 20 least 300-600 for 6 months for a chronic disease
- 21 and at least 100 for a year. That is the standard
- 22 ICH minimum data package for safety.
- 23 As you point out, this is an orphan
- 24 condition. I guess the company estimates the
- 25 prevalence of narcolepsy patients with cataplexy is

- 1 about 25,000 or 24,000, something like that. And,
- 2 we had agreed prior to the submission of the NDA
- 3 with the company that, because it is an orphan with
- 4 a fairly small prevalence, that they wouldn't
- 5 really have to have the full data set that a
- 6 typical NDA would have, and we agreed that a total
- 7 of about 500 would be in the ball park. It is
- 8 understood that at least some significant
- 9 percentage of those patients should be at a
- 10 therapeutic dose because the safety accrued at the
- 11 dose that is less than therapeutic isn't
- 12 particularly contributory.
- So, while I don't believe -- the company
- 14 can correct me if I am wrong, but I don't believe
- 15 we set in stone what would the minimum numbers be
- 16 that would be sufficient for either 6 months or a
- 17 year or total active therapeutic dose. I don't
- 18 believe we signed a contract about that, but I
- 19 think the implication is that a big chunk of the
- 20 data ought to be at therapeutic dose. So, I can't
- 21 give you an absolute answer but I will throw it
- 22 back to you and ask would you think that the
- 23 exposure at the therapeutic dose that you have seen
- 24 is sufficient to characterize the safety profile
- 25 reasonably and that we could write labeling that

1 would adequately inform prescribers about what the

- 2 panoply of risks is at 9 g?
- 3 DR. ROMAN: Could that be solved with a
- 4 post-release very strict follow-up on these
- 5 patients, Dr. Katz?
- 6 DR. KATZ: We really have to be assured
- 7 that the drug is safe in use at the time of
- 8 marketing. We cannot rely on post-marketing data
- 9 to say, well, we will find out if it is safe in
- 10 use. We have to make a decision about whether it
- 11 is safe in use as described in labeling, whatever
- 12 that is going to look like, at the time of
- 13 approval. There may be additional information we
- 14 would like to have in Phase IV but the fundamental
- 15 finding of whether or not it is safe in use must be
- 16 made prior to approval.
- 17 DR. ROMAN: A second point that I would
- 18 like to make is that probably you can say that up
- 19 to 9 g per day, not that there is sort of the
- 20 middle of the road -- probably it would be
- 21 recommended to start with a lower amount and
- 22 increase according to tolerance and effects, but it
- 23 is up to 9 g per day. That is sort of the upper
- 24 limit. It happens to be the most effective one and
- 25 sort of therapeutic dose but probably you would

- 1 like to start with the lowest possible amount.
- DR. KAWAS: I think the company shares
- 3 your interest, but my take on this is we don't want
- 4 to put out there that a drug is efficacious at one
- 5 dose and safe at another. I mean, I think it is
- 6 incumbent on us to feel confident that both of
- 7 those characteristics go with whatever dose we
- 8 think is appropriate.
- 9 In response to your question, Dr. Simpson,
- 10 and I don't know if I understood it correctly but
- 11 you said what is the clinical significance, is that
- 12 from the perspective of a clinical?
- DR. SIMPSON: Well, that is part of it.
- 14 Just speaking as a statistician though, the safety
- 15 evidence isn't there with those kind of numbers,
- 16 obviously. I mean, I think everybody knows that.
- 17 DR. KAWAS: I think that is really more
- 18 the question that is on hand here --
- DR. SIMPSON: Yes.
- DR. KAWAS: -- because from the
- 21 perspective of a clinical, this drug actually --
- 22 you know, if you didn't tell me what the drug was
- 23 and just showed me ten safety profiles that have
- 24 gone by this committee in the last decade, or
- 25 whatever, I suspect this would look like one of the

- 1 best ones. Nobody died from it. No major
- 2 laboratory abnormalities were detected. But it is
- 3 very, very, very few subjects that we are talking
- 4 about, and I think that is considerable concern to
- 5 us.
- 6 DR. SIMPSON: There actually was one
- 7 suicide which could be attributed to this.
- 8 DR. KAWAS: It still puts it in probably
- 9 the best of the ten. Dr. Katz?
- 10 DR. KATZ: Dr. Racusin, on our safety
- 11 team, just reminded me of sort of a simple rule
- 12 that we use to decide what sort of size of a risk
- 13 you can cap with a given exposure, it is called the
- 14 rule of thirds, but basically with a cohort of 60
- 15 patient years you could be comfortable with ruling
- 16 out a risk of no greater than 1/20, which is
- 17 --what? -- 5 percent. So, in other words, there
- 18 could be a rate of 5 percent of something bad with
- 19 a cohort of 60 that you would not have even seen in
- 20 that cohort. So, just to sort of give you an idea
- 21 of what sorts of potential risks are there that we
- 22 might not have seen yet with this cohort size.
- DR. VAN BELLE: Just a small correction,
- 24 Dr. Katz. I believe that it should be 3/60, which
- 25 is 15 percent rather than 20 percent.

DR. KAWAS: Do we have any other comments

- 2 before we give a shot at trying to vote on the
- 3 safety?
- 4 DR. WOLINSKY: I very much share your
- 5 concern about approving the drug at one effective
- 6 dose and then saying the safety is really at a
- 7 lower dose than what is effective. On the other
- 8 hand, I do think that we have some reasonable data
- 9 on the efficacy side that says that the dose ranged
- 10 somewhere between 6-9 g is effective for a
- 11 substantial proportion of patients, which we then
- 12 give us not roughly 50 years of patient exposure
- 13 but closer to 200 years of patient exposure.
- DR. KAWAS: I agree with that comment, Dr.
- 15 Wolinsky, but I really would want to point out that
- 16 almost all of the SEs appear at the 9, not at the 6
- 17 range. So, you know, you are stacking the deck a
- 18 little.
- DR. WOLINSKY: I thought actually, as I
- 20 saw the listing of the adverse reactions, they
- 21 clustered in two modal distributions. One was at
- 22 the high range and one was, surprisingly, below 6.
- DR. KAWAS: Actually, maybe we will take a
- 24 look at that. Could Xyrem put up slide number 70
- 25 for us, updated ISS database does distribution of

- 1 adverse events?
- 2 [Slide]
- 3 I think that is what you are talking
- 4 about. It is not a perfect dose response. I mean,
- 5 something pops up in the middle, the 6 range
- 6 actually in terms of SAEs at 12 percent for the 6 g
- 7 dose.
- B DR. WOLINSKY: And if I heard correctly,
- 9 and I don't know how they were distributed, at
- 10 least some of those serious adverse events were
- 11 cataplectic episodes.
- DR. KAWAS: But even then, I mean, I would
- 13 point out that we are talking about a 3-fold
- 14 increase in discontinuations due to AEs in the 9
- 15 versus the 6. I mean, it is a 3-fold difference.
- DR. WOLINSKY: I take your point.
- DR. PENN: On the other hand, once again,
- 18 that looks like a pretty safe drug to me when you
- 19 are only talking about 15 percent of people
- 20 dropping out for AEs, and the real-life situation
- 21 is that these patients are going to be titrated up
- 22 to the 9 and, as we saw from that graph of the
- 23 unacceptable information from the standpoint of the
- 24 study results, in experience over a number of years
- 25 you can run patients certainly at lower doses than

- 1 9. So, I think that should be influencing our
- 2 opinion of the safety data.
- 3 DR. KAWAS: Thanks. Dr. Katz?
- 4 DR. KATZ: Yes, I think the critical
- 5 question here is not whether those numbers at 9 g
- 6 are acceptable or not, although that is an
- 7 important question, but to me the question is --
- 8 and you have certainly been talking about that, do
- 9 you have enough experience to be comfortable at the
- 10 dose you think is effective. I think, I mean my
- 11 sense of what people are saying -- you didn't vote
- 12 on it yet, but my sense is that you felt that at 9
- 13 g there just isn't really that much data. I don't
- 14 want to preempt your vote, but it sounds like the
- 15 general consensus was there wasn't enough data
- 16 there -- forget about what the data actually
- 17 showed, but there just wasn't enough to be able to
- 18 be comfortable that we have adequately
- 19 characterized the safety at 9, which is what we
- 20 have to do. The only vote you took on
- 21 effectiveness was effectiveness at 9 g. So, if you
- 22 think it is useful to reopen a discussion about
- 23 whether or not you think there is effectiveness at
- 24 6 g, and if you do, then you have considerably more
- 25 exposure to think about. So, that is your call. I

1 mean, Dr. Wolinsky suggested that he thought there

- 2 might be some evidence of effectiveness at 6. I
- 3 don't know how the others feel, and I leave it up
- 4 to you as to whether or not you want to reopen that
- 5 question because if you do think there is
- 6 effectiveness at a lower dose, it increases your N
- 7 from the point of view of safety. So, I just throw
- 8 that out.
- 9 DR. KAWAS: I actually think that is
- 10 probably worth our doing. With regards to
- 11 effectiveness at 6 g, what are the thoughts of the
- 12 committee? I will start by saying that I suspect
- 13 that there is effectiveness for at least many
- 14 patients at 6 g, partly for all the reasons that
- 15 other members of the committee have said, but also
- 16 because there appears to be a fairly prominent
- 17 dose-response curve not only in terms of AEs but
- 18 also in terms of efficacy. And, what isn't
- 19 factored into a total dose is the levels of
- 20 particular patients, the weights of particular
- 21 patients or whatever, but the data shows me that at
- 22 least a subset of patients appear to be responding
- 23 at least in some of the trials to 6 g. Dr. Katz?
- DR. KATZ: Study 21, the withdrawal study.
- DR. HOUGHTON: That is the slide that I

- 1 would really like to show if I could.
- DR. KATZ: The dose there was 50 mg/kg, is
- 3 that correct? What was the distribution of doses
- 4 in that study?
- 5 [Slide]
- 6 DR. HOUGHTON: This is shown here. There
- 7 was an equal distribution of patients at the 6, 7.5
- 8 and 9 g and if you look at that paradigm of acute
- 9 withdrawal, the response to placebo randomization
- 10 is obviously very robust at 6 and 7.5 g, as it is
- 11 at the 9 g. The problem with the GHB-2 study is
- 12 that it is only a 4-week study and the slope of the
- 13 line hadn't plateau'd at the end of 4 weeks. When
- 14 we did apply that to open label, even though it was
- 15 open label we still saw the maximum nadir at 8
- 16 weeks. So, if you then take a group of patients
- 17 who have been on active treatment for a very long
- 18 time and are then randomized to placebo, if you
- 19 believe that is a support for long-term efficacy
- 20 then efficacy is supported at 6 g and 7.5 g.
- 21 DR. KAWAS: Would members of the committee
- 22 like to comment on this data or any other data
- 23 showing efficacy or non-efficacy at 6 g? Yes?
- DR. SIMPSON: I do think that this trial,
- 25 in fact, is very impressive. I just want to remind

- 1 everybody of the caveat of this, that the people
- 2 that you were looking at long-term exclude all
- 3 those people who have dropped out for adverse
- 4 events.
- 5 DR. KAWAS: I think that is a very good
- 6 point. I mean, this was a study done in responders
- 7 rather than just random narcoleptics. Individuals
- 8 in this group represented probably are individuals
- 9 who felt they were getting benefit or saw benefit.
- DR. SIMPSON: And provided the drug is
- 11 safe, then in fact this might be a fair rule to
- 12 look at to say, yes, the drug is effective.
- DR. MANI: I would just like to point out
- 14 that these comparisons are not of randomized
- 15 groups.
- DR. KATZ: They are not randomized to
- 17 dose.
- DR. MANI: They are not randomized to
- 19 dose.
- DR. KATZ: It is obviously a randomized
- 21 study. So, they are not randomized to dose in the
- 22 sense of typical dose response. These are doses
- 23 that presumably they had been responding to in open
- 24 experience, and there is not as balanced across the
- 25 doses, that is true. And, the numbers are quite

- 1 small on each dose. On the other hand, you have
- 2 already decided that in toto it is a study that
- 3 demonstrates effectiveness.
- 4 DR. KAWAS: I mean, I think even though we
- 5 all recognize these are responders, the fact that a
- 6 group of individuals on 6 g who, when withdrawn,
- 7 showed this effect at least told me that there was
- 8 a subgroup that did respond, as I said before, to
- 9 6. The question is how big is that subgroup, and
- 10 when we are talking about indications and efficacy
- 11 do we feel that on the whole 6 is a dose to which
- 12 people respond based on all the evidence that we
- 13 have seen so far?
- DR. FALKOWSKI: And I would also like to
- 15 say I am a little uncomfortable with the idea of
- 16 saying that we have so many patient hours for most
- 17 drugs but, because this is orphan status, we have
- 18 it but we don't have -- Dr. Katz' remarks -- but we
- 19 don't have any numbers. Well, that, to me, puts
- 20 the sponsor in a difficult situation about, you
- 21 know, what is adequate in trying to develop a new
- 22 drug and it makes it very difficult for us here to
- 23 try to reach a conclusion. Enlighten me, here.
- DR. GUILLEMINAULT: Can we make a comment,
- 25 as a sleep expert, on the issue?

DR. KAWAS: I am sorry, who is speaking?

- DR. GUILLEMINAULT: Yes, can we make a
- 3 comment on that issue as sleep experts?
- DR. KAWAS: Please. Yes, you are on the
- 5 air.
- 6 DR. GUILLEMINAULT: Okay. The comment
- 7 that I want to make is that currently there is no
- 8 drug for cataplexy which is at a fixed dosage.
- 9 None. Because there is a certain amount of
- 10 variability from patient to patient, and a patient,
- 11 for example, can respond at 20 mg of fluoxetine or
- 12 60 mg of fluoxetine. In general terms, it is
- 13 unrealistic to believe that there will be a single
- 14 dose which will control all cataplectic attacks for
- 15 all narcoleptic patients. So, you have dose
- 16 ranges, and I think that that is what these studies
- 17 are showing. Looking at the data that you have,
- 18 efficacy for some patients is at 6 or for some
- 19 patients at 9. And, that is the clinical
- 20 experience, 20 years of clinical experience. That
- 21 is the best that you are going to get. So, your
- 22 efficacy for some is 6 and for some is 9. All
- 23 drugs used for cataplexy are like that. All
- 24 patients respond following that scheme.
- DR. KAWAS: Thank you. Dr. Katz, would

- 1 you like to comment on Dr. Falkowski's concerns
- 2 about the orphan status?
- 3 DR. KATZ: The only written rules that I
- 4 am aware of which talk about numbers that are
- 5 adequate, or are potentially adequate, for an NDR,
- 6 or for a typical NDR, there are no numbers written
- 7 down anywhere as policy or guidance.
- 8 So, as I say, had agreed that a total of
- 9 500 was appropriate -- we, the company and the
- 10 division.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: So they came up short.
- 12 DR. KATZ: Well, that is the question we
- 13 are asking. There was, on our part, that at least
- 14 a big chunk of that would be at a therapeutic dose.
- 15 So that is why we are asking you whether or not you
- 16 think it is adequately characacterized.
- I just want to make one other comment with
- 18 regard to the 6-gram effectiveness and to ask the
- 19 company just . should make this explicit, although
- 20 I think Dr. Trout said it a couple of times.
- 21 In Study 2, the p-value for the 6-gram
- 22 versus placebo contrast was 0.0529, or 0.053, I
- 23 believe. That was including a correction for
- 24 multiple comparisons given the three doses.
- 25 So you have one study which, basically,

- 1 has a p-value of 0.05 at the 6-gram dose; right?
- 2 And then you have what you have seen. So I just
- 3 remind the committee of that.
- 4 DR. FALKOWSKI: And that was the four-week
- 5 study, the GHB-2 study; right? Okay.DR. KATZ: i

- 7 DR. KAWAS: Any final comments before we
- 8 take a vote on the sponsor establishing the safety
- 9 of Xyrem when used for the proposed -- well,
- 10 actually --
- 11 DR. SIMPSON: Would it be appropriate to
- 12 do a revote on the efficacy?
- DR. KAWAS: Not revote, but we can do
- 14 another vote on whether or not the panel thinks
- 15 that there was efficacy demonstrated at --
- DR. SIMPSON: A dose between 6 and 9.
- DR. KAWAS: Well, I think we will have to
- 18 say either a dose of 6 or a dose of 7.5 or
- 19 something like that.
- DR. KATZ: Well, if you conclude it is
- 21 effective at 6 and you have already concluded it is
- 22 effective at 9, it would be sort of odd if it
- 23 wasn't effective at 7.5. So, if you just want to
- 24 vote it at 6, we will take it from there.
- DR. KAWAS: Okay. We are voting on 6.

- 1 Has the sponsor demonstrated efficacy of Xyrem for
- 2 the proposed indication to treat cataplexy at the
- 3 dose of 6 grams per day? All in favor? All who
- 4 agree that the efficacy has been demonstrated,
- 5 raise your hand.
- 6 [Show of hands.]
- 7 DR. KAWAS: Let's start and identify
- 8 yourself as we are going around.
- 9 DR. SIMPSON: Simpson.
- 10 DR. ROMAN: Roman.
- DR. WOLINSKY: Wolinsky.
- DR. LACEY: Lacey.
- DR. KAWAS: All who do not feel that the
- 14 company has demonstrated efficacy at 6 to treat
- 15 cataplexy, raise your hand. Start identifying at
- 16 that end.
- DR. PENIX: Penix.
- DR. VAN BELLE: Van Belle.
- DR. PENN: Penn.
- 20 DR. KAWAS: And I am the lone abstention,
- 21 I think.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: Over here.
- DR. KAWAS: Oh; and Falkowski. So we have
- 24 a split committee for you on 6. If I vote, I break
- 25 it. Actually, I am fairly convinced that there is

- 1 efficacy at 6. So Kawas.
- Now, safety. We are now talking safety
- 3 between 6 to 9. We are now talking about a lot
- 4 more patient hours, patient years. The floor is
- 5 open for discussion for safety between 6 and 9
- 6 grams a day.
- 7 DR. PENN: Can the company give us the
- 8 number of patient years exposure 6, 7, 9, total
- 9 because we can't do it from your data that we have
- 10 seen here. How close to the magic 500 are you?
- 11 Patient years; excuse me.
- DR. KATZ: Not patient years. 250
- 13 patients greater than six months, if I added that
- 14 up correctly. That is without Dr. Scharf. This is
- 15 now with, so the numbers are bigger. Without Dr.
- 16 Scharf, I calculate about 250 patients for at least
- 17 six months. Is that about right?
- DR. VAN BELLE: I got 399.
- 19 DR. KATZ: Greater than six months?
- DR. VAN BELLE: Yes.
- 21 DR. KATZ: At 6 and above? We can just
- 22 split the difference.
- DR. VAN BELLE: How many Ph.D.s does it
- 24 take to add nine numbers?
- DR. KATZ: I am not a Ph.D. I can't be

1 expected to. Can you put the slide back without

- 2 Dr. Scharf?
- 3 DR. KAWAS: I come to about 150 patient
- 4 years of exposure just looking at the individuals
- 5 who were on at 12 months or more.
- 6 DR. REARDON: This is the data without Dr.
- 7 Scharf included from the ISS.
- B DR. KAWAS: I think it is important that
- 9 we know exactly what we are looking at so thank you
- 10 for pointing that out to us. On the other hand, I
- 11 will say that it is to -- my personal impression
- 12 was that Dr. Scharf's data, although it was the
- 13 most extensive and the longest term, was collected
- 14 the least systematically. Given some of the other
- 15 issues that were brought up about it, it is
- 16 probably to your advantage to stick with this
- 17 dataset in terms of AEs.
- 18 Okay; then the vote is about to be called
- 19 for. If the sponsor has established the safety of
- 20 Xyrem when used for the proposed indication at the
- 21 dose of 6 to 9 grams per day. All who think yes,
- 22 raise your hands.
- [Show of hands.]
- 24 DR. KAWAS: Wait a minute. Something very
- 25 funny just happened here. It seemed like more

- 1 people were willing to say it was safe at 9 than
- 2 are willing to say it is safe at 6 to 9? Let me
- 3 try again. Who thinks it is safe, raise your hands
- 4 now.
- 5 [Show of hands.]
- 6 DR. KAWAS: Identify yourself from that
- 7 end.
- 8 DR. ROMAN: Roman.
- 9 DR. WOLINSKY: Wolinsky.
- DR. PENN: Penn.
- 11 DR. KAWAS: Kawas in there. Anyone else?
- 12 Who does not think it is safe, raise your hands,
- 13 that safety has been demonstrated, established
- 14 safety at the dose from 6 to 9 raise your hand now?
- 15 [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: Has not been demonstrated to
- 17 your satisfaction. Falkowski, Simpson, Lacey,
- 18 Penix? Anyone else?
- DR. VAN BELLE: Van Belle abstains.
- DR. KAWAS: And one abstention. We are
- 21 really helping a lot.
- DR. KATZ: I didn't count. Was that a
- 23 split?
- DR. KAWAS: Right down the middle. Really
- 25 helping.

- The third question that the FDA has asked
- 2 us to consider is the adoption of a risk management
- 3 plan necessary for the safe use of Xyrem. I would
- 4 like to focus us on that question. First, in a
- 5 yes/no way rather than the details of whether or
- 6 not, of what belongs in a management program if we
- 7 think yes, or what doesn't belong if we think yes.
- B DR. FALKOWSKI: I thought part of our
- 9 discussion was going to be different elements of
- 10 that.
- DR. KAWAS: That is the next part. First,
- 12 let's decide do we need a risk-management program,
- 13 yes or no. And then, if we do, what should be the
- 14 elements. Jerry?
- DR. WOLINSKY: I think there are really
- 16 two issues here. I wish there weren't, but there
- 17 are two. One is the risk-management program and
- 18 whether it is critical for the patient population
- 19 in which the drug seems to be indicated. I
- 20 actually don't think that is important.
- Then the question is is there a risk management.
- 22 program that is necessary for the
- 23 concerns about the societal risk at large. There,
- 24 I think the answer is absolutely yes. Because of
- 25 that conflict, we may be in an unusual position if

1 we favor this drug, favoring, potentially, making a

- 2 precedent step in which we put unusual controls on
- 3 physicians and patients, more so than we have had
- 4 in the past.
- I am not sure there is anything wrong with
- 6 that, but I am not sure that this is a large enough
- 7 forum in which this question should be addressed.
- 8 DR. KATZ: There certainly are precedents
- 9 for risk-management programs being necessary for
- 10 the safe marketing of the drug. I don't know that
- 11 there are many, but there are certainly -- and I
- 12 think you heard about some. So there is this
- 13 precedence for a risk-management program.
- 14 Now, the details--I don't know
- 15 specifically which details you are thinking about -- may make
- 16 this more of a precedent. But, certainly,
- 17 risk-management programs of this type or similar
- 18 type have been used and have been approved.
- DR. WOLINSKY: I don't disagree with that,
- 20 but I think we are talking about whether or not
- 21 there is an inherent problem with the drug in terms
- 22 of the efficacy, safety level that we are seeing.
- 23 Most of the risk-management programs that I am
- 24 aware of that have been put in place have been put
- 25 in place for the protection of the patient not the

- 1 protection of society.
- 2 DR. KATZ: Again, you have made a
- 3 distinction which we have not yet explicitly made.
- 4 It is a fair distinction. I am not sure everyone
- 5 agrees that there would be no need for a risk-management
- 6 program if it was just--if you weren't
- 7 worried about the societal questions. But it is a
- 8 fair point for sure.
- 9 DR. PENIX: Also, isn't it the difference
- 10 in the fact that this is a controlled substance and
- 11 the other drugs are not that the safety measures
- 12 that are put in place for the protection of the
- 13 patients are usually not controlled substances. So
- 14 that may be a difference in this particular case.
- DR. WOLINSKY: This is controlled, but I
- 16 am not sure that the controlled substances have
- 17 this much potential control on them is what we are
- 18 suggesting here.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: I have a question which is
- 20 has the FDA ever been in a position where they have
- 21 a drug coming before them that has already been
- 22 scheduled? This seems to be unique.
- DR. LEIDERMAN: Could I just answer a
- 24 couple of these questions?
- DR. KAWAS: Please, Dr. Leiderman.

- DR. LEIDERMAN: Let me refer you to a
- 2 table. It is actually the last page in your blue
- 3 FDA briefing package book. It actually lists
- 4 several examples of risk-management plans for
- 5 different drugs that come from different classes
- 6 and for different therapeutic indications that are
- 7 all in place for various safety reasons within the
- 8 FDA, and they range from other controlled
- 9 substances, potent opiates in the case of Actiq and
- 10 fentanyl, to mifeprex and thalidomide. The risks
- 11 and the intended protected individuals may be
- 12 different in each case. Obviously, in thalidomide,
- 13 the risk isn't to the patient but to the accidental
- 14 fetus. Similarly, much of the consideration in
- 15 Actiq, which is a potent opiate, was concern for
- 16 other individuals within the household and, again,
- 17 not for an opiate-tolerant severely debilitated
- 18 pain patient.
- 19 So, to answer Dr. Penix' question, in
- 20 fact, or Dr. Falkowski's, some of these have been
- 21 already scheduled drugs. I think what is unusual
- 22 but not absolutely unique is to start out with a
- 23 drug that is basically in Schedule I and then to be
- 24 bringing it into the therapeutic arena but, again,
- 25 it is not entirely unprecedented either.

- DR. KAWAS: Thank you. I can't help but
- 2 point out that it is probably unprecedented, but
- 3 this drug has gone from over the counter, a
- 4 completely unregulated food supplement that could
- 5 be bought by anybody ten years ago to Schedule I,
- 6 which seems to me even more unusual.
- 7 So we are back to the question about the
- 8 adaption of a risk-management plan necessary for
- 9 the safe use of Xyrem. I think the comments that
- 10 have been made, that Dr. Wolinsky made, was it may
- 11 not be necessary for the safe use but it is
- 12 necessary for other reasons.
- 13 Can we amend what we vote on, whether or
- 14 not it is necessary, period, for whatever reasons
- 15 and vote on it in that regard?
- DR. KATZ: Yes; I would prefer you did,
- 17 actually.
- DR. KAWAS: Okay. The real question is is
- 19 a risk-management program necessary. I have a
- 20 feeling we are ready to vote on that. So I will
- 21 call the question. All in favor say aye.
- [Chorus of ayes.]
- DR. KAWAS: No?
- DR. PENN: No.
- DR. KAWAS: Let the record show that Dr.

- Penn voted no. Any abstentions?
- [No response.]
- 3 DR. KAWAS: Dr. Penn, do you want to give
- 4 your comments, since you were the descending
- 5 opinion.
- 6 DR. PENN: I think this is a very
- 7 complicated issue and I don't think we can resolve,
- 8 at the end of a committee meeting, the
- 9 responsibilities toward the general population of
- 10 controlling the drug and the FDA controlling it for
- 11 a group of patients.
- 12 I see that the whole issue is being
- 13 distorted in the same way that drugs for treating
- 14 pain have been a problem and that is if we limit
- 15 the drug with all these regulations, that the
- 16 patient population, which is quite small, will not
- 17 be served.
- 18 That certainly has been true with narcotic
- 19 drugs over the years, that many, many physicians
- 20 have underprescribed narcotics for a long period of
- 21 time. I think we will see the same here except
- 22 there won't be the same push to get it accepted by
- 23 cancer patients. The narcolepsy group is much too
- 24 small.
- 25 So it is going to be a very hard balance.

1 I also worry about the idea of "voluntary" ways of

- 2 doing this. They are not voluntary on the company.
- 3 The company wants to get the drug out and they
- 4 realize that they can't do it unless there are
- 5 societal controls on the drug and they are willing
- 6 to do it.
- 7 But I don't like the precedent of the drug
- 8 company deciding for a physician whether, for
- 9 example, somebody 17-years old will get the
- 10 medication or whether somebody, because of
- 11 different metabolism of the drug, might not be used
- 12 on a slightly higher dose than 9.
- 13 Those are things that we have
- 14 traditionally let the treating physician do and we
- 15 have also not let the company choose who are the
- 16 treating physicians. So I think this is something
- 17 that needs a large amount of debate and that is why
- 18 I was being obstinate and voting no on this without
- 19 qualification.
- DR. KAWAS: Thank you. Rusty?
- 21 DR. KATZ: Just as far as the dose and the
- 22 limitations, that is something that can be
- 23 discussed in the context of what type of risk-management
- 24 program you think needs to be in place.
- 25 You could have a risk-management program that

- 1 doesn't say you cannot ever give a dose greater
- 2 than 9 grams.
- 3 In a typical drug, when we have labeling,
- 4 we have information that the drug is effective or
- 5 safe only up to dose X, we don't usually say, "You
- 6 can't possibly give any more." We just say, "Here
- 7 is the data. There is no data above dose X."
- 8 So it isn't part and parcel of any risk-management
- 9 program that you would automatically
- 10 limit the dose. I supposed you could, but it is
- 11 not presupposed that that must be the case.
- DR. PENN: But you might limit age. The
- 13 other thing is who is going to make these
- 14 decisions. We were given this in the context of a
- 15 very particular type of risk management. I think
- 16 the devil is in the details in these types of
- 17 situations and to vote yes or no is very difficult
- 18 without knowing exactly what details we are talking
- 19 about. They make major substantive differences.
- DR. KAWAS: Let's go on.
- DR. KATZ: That is why I wouldn't ask you
- 22 to vote on the details.
- DR. KAWAS: That is what I was going to
- 24 say. Let's go on to the details. I want to remind
- 25 the committee, particularly because of the lateness

- 1 of the hour, if there is a detail that is not
- 2 important to you, please don't fill up too many of
- 3 the airwaves with it so we can get to the ones that
- 4 are important to you.
- 5 So the first one is should there be a
- 6 requirement for additional safeguards; i.e.,
- 7 keeping drugs in a locked storage space in the
- 8 patient's home. Just for a straw vote to begin
- 9 with. How many people think that there should be
- 10 the requirement for a locked cabinet in the
- 11 patient's home? Anyone who thinks yes? Straw
- 12 vote. Anyone who thinks no? Straw vote.
- I think we have got a clear preponderance
- 14 here. I think I will at least express my thinking
- is that we don't require patients to keep Demerol
- 16 or Valium or Halcion or anything else in a closed
- 17 cabinet, many of the drugs that are potentially at
- 18 least as abusable as this.
- 19 Having said that, I think that almost all
- 20 drugs belong in a locked cabinet. That is the real
- 21 issue here and I am not sure to what extent
- 22 requiring it would make one difference or another.
- 23 So, should there be a requirement for
- 24 additional safeguards? Can T say, in general, that
- 25 the committee felt that that was not essential, necessary.

Should there be additional warnings on the

- 2 labeling of the dose cups and/or bottle? Any
- 3 comments?
- 4 DR. WOLINSKY: I heard something that I
- 5 thought was very insightful from one of the people
- 6 who talked to us in the public session and that it
- 7 would be useful if there was some distinguishing
- 8 feature about the bottles that could not easily be
- 9 counterfeited and this was be in everyone's best
- 10 interest.
- 11 DR. KAWAS: Thanks. I assume that would
- 12 be something that the company would do to the
- 13 bottle rather than something the patient--
- DR. WOLINSKY: I assume so.
- DR. DYER: Are the dose cups to be labeled
- 16 because those are not? So additional would be
- 17 additional to that or additional to what is
- 18 required by law, because they should definitely be
- 19 labeled.
- 20 DR. KATZ: If I can just interject. I
- 21 don't think there is anything required by law.
- 22 This is what the patient keeps at home. Right now,
- 23 I think they are just as you see them. There is
- 24 nothing on them. There is no labeling of any sort;
- 25 is that right? They are just blank?

- 1 DR. KAWAS: Would the company like to
- 2 comment? Is any additional labeling planned for
- 3 the dose cups? Or maybe it is about to be planned
- 4 for the dose cups?
- 5 MS. ENGEL: Actually, no. As you know,
- 6 the poison-control system nationwide is going to a
- 7 central 800 number as well as having a logo that is
- 8 "Mr. Yuck" like but better tested for kids. That
- 9 we expect to be ready in October. At that point,
- 10 the central pharmacy will put into each of the
- 11 packages three stickers, one for the bottle and one
- 12 for each dose computer that will include that "Mr.
- 13 Yuck" type symbol plus the central 800 number for
- 14 the entire poison-control system nationwide.
- DR. DYER: My concern is that if the
- 16 bottle ever leaves the little dose caps- if you go
- 17 away for a night, I am going to take my two doses
- 18 with me. If they are separated from that bottle,
- 19 no one is ever going to know what it is.
- 20 MS. ENGEL: As I said, there are three of
- 21 those labels that will go, so one for each--no; it
- 22 does not.
- DR. DYER: It needs to say what it is. If
- 24 you go stay at a friend's for the night and you
- 25 have narcolepsy and you take those two bottles with

- 1 you, child-resistant caps are designed to keep
- 2 children out for one to two minutes. That is it.
- 3 Somebody will get into that and, if they do, there
- 4 is no way to know what it is.
- 5 When they call that number to the poison
- 6 center, they say, "I have a bottle with a "Mr.
- 7 Yuck" sticker on it." It needs to say Xyrem and
- 8 now many milligrams.
- 9 DR. KAWAS: I would like to call the
- 10 question. Should there be additional warnings on
- 11 the labeling of the dose cups and the bottle of
- 12 GHB? Do I need to separate those two out or can I
- 13 put the dose cups together with the bottle.
- 14 Let's start with should there be labelings
- 15 on the bottles. All in favor raise their hands?
- [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: Is that almost unanimous? No?
- 18 Labels on the dose cups saying that it is Xyrem or
- 19 GHB or something. That is unanimous, please note
- 20 on the record.
- 21 How about should there be additional
- 22 warnings on the dose cups and/or bottle of GHB? I
- 23 am not sure, maybe I should ask, what is the
- 24 definition of additional? What is supposed to be
- 25 on there already? Dr. Katz?

DR. KATZ: I think we are probably mostly

- 2 thinking of the cups. There was supposed to be
- 3 nothing on cups. So anything you put on is
- 4 additional. I don't know about the bottle. I
- 5 don't know if we were thinking specifically about
- 6 the bottle. I assume that has all the usual
- 7 required statements, whatever they are.
- 8 DR. KAWAS: Are you satisfied by our vote
- 9 that there needs to be labeling on the dose cups?
- 10 I think, though, I am starting to feel from the
- 11 committee that there is some expression of wanting
- 12 certain kinds of warnings added? No?
- DR. DYER: If I could just add in, by law,
- 14 you have to have "Keep out of reach of children,"
- 15 "Don't take with depressant drugs," "Avoid
- 16 hazardous machinery." So those kinds of standard
- 17 things would be on there and I don't know that
- 18 anything else would be required.
- 19 DR. KAWAS: Dr. Lacey?
- DR. LACEY: If this is a scheduled
- 21 substance with implications for--legal
- 22 implications, why wouldn't we put that type of
- 23 warning in as few words as possible there. Maybe
- 24 it would deter someone.
- DR. DYER: There is already a requirement

- 1 for "Federal law prohibits dispensing of this drug
- 2 to other than who it is prescribed." There is
- 3 already a label like that required on
- 4 prescriptions.
- DR. PENIX: It could also attract certain
- 6 people as well, I think.
- 7 DR. KAWAS: Yes; these warning labels have
- 8 a mixed response. Can we move on to special
- 9 concern or advice regarding limitations on the
- 10 quantity supplied at any one time. Perhaps the
- 11 sponsor can correct me but my recall is that it is
- 12 going to be dispensed at one month and then--a
- 13 maximum of one-month supply at a time? Is that
- 14 correct?
- DR. REARDON: We had proposed to the
- 16 agency initially to start at one month with each
- 17 patient. As the patients and pharmacists get
- 18 experience, that might be extended to three months
- 19 or could be kept to one month.
- 20 I think the FDA is asking should there be
- 21 a regulatory or legal description on the length of
- 22 period that a Schedule III drug should be
- 23 prescribed.
- 24 DR. KAWAS: Rusty?
- DR. KATZ: I am not sure we meant that

- 1 question to be generic with regard to any Schedule
- 2 III. We want to know whether or not, in this
- 3 particular risk-management program, there ought to
- 4 be a provision that says you only get one month at
- 5 a time, or you only get three months at a time. We
- 6 just wanted to know what you felt about that.
- 7 DR. KAWAS: The floor is open for
- 8 discussion. First, do people think there should be
- 9 any restrictions on the amount, period, and then we
- 10 can discuss the timing. So straw vote. All people
- 11 who think that we should be talking restriction of
- 12 some sort or another raise their hand. And people
- 13 who don't think we need to be talking restriction
- 14 on length of time, raise your hands.
- We have got a roughly split straw vote
- 16 with the probable preponderance on the no time
- 17 limit. Does that help enough?
- DR. KATZ: Sure. If that is what you
- 19 think, it is helpful. I can't guarantee we will
- 20 agree.
- 21 DR. KAWAS: Having worked in sleep
- 22 laboratories as well as doing other physician
- 23 things where certain drugs--I mean, my personal
- 24 rule has been that drugs that have the kind of
- 25 potential for trouble, of which there are many,

- 1 many, many of them already in our armamentarium, I
- 2 never give out more than one month's supply with
- 3 three refills.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: That is why I think that,
- 5 particularly with this, we need to be cognizant of
- 6 that and that there should be a limitation on that.
- 7 That is all I wanted to say. And I also don't know
- 8 where it comes in, or where this discussion
- 9 happens, but I really believe that a drug, if you
- 10 look at the third page from the back of the
- 11 materials the FDA provided about just the
- 12 scheduling criteria for drugs, that this drug,
- 13 although it is efficacious for people with
- 14 cataplexy, with narcolepsy or else on stimulant
- 15 drugs, that it clearly--
- 16 DR. KAWAS: Your point it getting lost.
- 17 DR. FALKOWSKI: It should be in Schedule
- 18 II. I believe it should have the dispensing
- 19 restrictions that are more consistent with a
- 20 Schedule II drug and I don't believe that would put
- 21 undue burden on the patients because most of them
- 22 are already on Schedule II drugs because they are
- 23 on methamphetamines or other drugs.
- 24 Somehow, I wanted to say that today.
- 25 Thank you.

DR. KAWAS: Do you feel satisfied with

- 2 what you have heard on that question, Rusty?
- 3 DR. ROMAN: Claudia, one more point is how
- 4 are the patients going to be selected. I think
- 5 would should at least mention that the patient
- 6 should have a clear diagnosis of narcolepsy with
- 7 polysomnogram and MSLT
- B DR. KAWAS: You are jumping to Question 6,
- 9 but why don't we go ahead and do that since I agree
- 10 that is an important point and I am worried we
- 11 won't get to it.
- 12 So what are your thoughts?
- DR. ROMAN: That patients should have a
- 14 recent polysomnogram followed by MSLT in order to
- 15 confirm the diagnosis of narcolepsy.
- DR. PENN: Who is going to decide whether
- 17 it really is narcolepsy or not? The government?
- 18 The company? The person who reads the test? The
- 19 doctor that is taking care of the patient? That is
- 20 why I mean the details are very important. You can
- 21 say that it sounds good that we should have a
- 22 diagnosis, but these are important points.
- DR. KATZ: Can I just clarify what we
- 24 meant?
- DR. KAWAS: Thank you.

- DR. KATZ: We meant the treating
- 2 physician, in other words, would make the
- 3 diagnosis. We certainly, obviously, are not going
- 4 to get involved in the diagnosis of a patient from
- 5 where we sit. The company didn't anticipate that
- 6 they would either if I can speak for them.
- No; we just meant do you think that the
- 8 patients have to have a bona fide diagnosis, does
- 9 the physician who is writing the prescription have
- 10 to assert, in writing, before the prescription will
- 11 be filled that, yes, this patient has narcolepsy.
- 12 Then you can throw this apart and say do
- 13 they have to assert that the patient has cataplexy
- 14 and that is what you have decided the effectiveness
- 15 data supports. So that is a subtlety or nuance of
- 16 the question you can get to. But specifically with
- 17 regard to who is going to make the diagnosis, if
- 18 you meant that question seriously, we meant the
- 19 prescribing physician.
- 20 DR. KAWAS: Response to that? Dr. Roman,
- 21 do you want to give your opinion and then Dr.
- 22 Wolinsky has a question or comments.
- DR. ROMAN: I think that there are
- 24 diagnostic criteria that are sort of fairly well
- 25 accepted, at least here in the USA. The question

- 1 of should it be a certified polysomographer or
- 2 should it be one of the certified centers in the
- 3 nation, we will start getting into the problem of
- 4 what happened with the patient who lives in the in
- 5 the middle of nowhere and has no way to get to the
- 6 next sleep center at 500 miles.
- 7 DR. KAWAS: Excuse me, but that is not
- 8 what Dr. Katz asked you. He wants to know do you
- 9 think the physician needs to certify, however they
- 10 come to this decision, that the person has
- 11 narcolepsy, that they need to certify up front,
- 12 this person definitely has narcolepsy.
- DR. ROMAN: One of the speakers mentioned
- 14 that it is relatively simple to get a sleep attack
- 15 and narcoleptic episodes that are real enough to
- 16 fool the best unsuspecting doctor. So, since we
- 17 have objective ways of making a diagnosis of
- 18 narcolepsy, I think we need to use that for the
- 19 protection of the public at large.
- DR. KAWAS: Thanks. Jerry?
- 21 DR. WOLINSKY: I think this actually
- 22 frames what is my concern from before about
- 23 protecting, or treating patients and protecting
- 24 society. Now I want to get back more to protecting
- 25 people who are treated. That really gets to an

- l issue that we run away from in this country and
- 2 that is, if we want to be able to push the envelope
- 3 to be able to provide drugs that may be helpful for
- 4 patients with true orphan diseases, we probably
- 5 also have to say that we are willing to make sure
- 6 that those people have what they say they have and
- 7 that the drugs are being used in the context of the
- 8 set of patients in whom they were originally
- 9 tested.
- 10 It is one thing to talk about hemorrhoid
- 11 cream but it is another thing to talk about a drug
- 12 with a narrow therapeutic window and a diagnosis
- 13 which can be made with accuracy by experts most of
- 14 the time and could be misapplied by others a lot of
- 15 the time.
- 16 This becomes a critical issue so that if
- 17 someone is not willing to monitor this, all that we
- 18 do, in looking at the hard science of what is
- 19 presented to us, flies out the window as soon as
- 20 the drug gets approval.
- DR. HAGAMAN: Can I make one quick
- 22 comment? I think, as a physician treating these
- 23 patients, if they have had a PSG and MSLT in the
- 24 past, there is really no need to bring them back in
- 25 for another one. At that point, you have to trust

- 1 the physician's judgment that yes, they do have a
- 2 diagnosis of narcolepsy, they have had the PSG M3LT
- 3 done.
- 4 DR. WOLINSKY: I don't think the panel was
- 5 questioning that at all.
- 6 DR. MIGNOT: Especially because, in such
- 7 cases, you will have to stop medications which is
- 8 another problem.
- 9 DR. KAWAS: I don't think that was being
- 10 suggested. So let's move on if we could, please.
- DR. SIMPSON: I don't know if this fits
- 12 under it, but the way the question is worded,
- 13 should there be restricted prescribing for the
- 14 product. I just want to put in a plea for
- 15 prescribing for children. As far as I can see,
- 16 there have been no pharmacokinetic studies in
- 17 children and children's pharmacodynamic and
- 18 pharmacokinetic profile can be very different from
- 19 adults.
- 20 So, given its complex pharmacokinetic
- 21 profile, as it is, I would be very concerned if it
- 22 was prescribed in children based, as is usual, on a
- 23 way to a BMI.
- DR. KAWAS: I am not sure that we have
- 25 answered your question. Actually, I still have a

- 1 question that I want the committee to focus on
- 2 unless Dr. Katz feels otherwise. Is it important
- 3 that we decide whether or not it needs to be
- 4 restricted to people with cataplexy as a component
- 5 of their illness?
- 6 DR. KATZ: I am not sure whether or not
- 7 you think you have made some sort of recommendation
- 8 about whether or not it needs to be restricted to
- 9 patients with narcolepsy globally yet. Do you
- 10 think you have, because I didn't hear it if you--
- DR. KAWAS: No; I don't think we have.
- 12 You are talking now about certifying that the
- 13 person has narcolepsy, at least on some signature
- 14 level.
- DR. KATZ: We did not put in how we you
- 16 would know that the patient has narcolepsy. We
- 17 anticipated that the physician would make the
- 18 diagnosis appropriately. We didn't ask--I don't
- 19 think we did anyway--about whether or not there
- 20 should be specific diagnostic criteria that they
- 21 have checked off or they have had a recent, or ever
- 22 had a polysomnogram.
- We anticipate, for purposes of this
- 24 question, that the diagnosis would be up to the
- 25 physician to make appropriately without any

1 additional specific requirements, but I suppose you

- 2 could say patients must have a history of
- 3 polysomnography and other tests, a multiple sleep
- 4 latency test or an MPT before they can be
- 5 prescribed this.
- 6 You could decide that you think that that
- 7 is appropriate. We left it open intentionally.
- DR. KAWAS: I think the committee needs to
- 9 discuss that particular point. I want to make the
- 10 comment, though, before we get too far, I would
- 11 tend to leave it open and I recognize all of the
- 12 things of modern medicine that all of the people in
- 13 this committee are familiar with because we sit at
- 14 major medical centers.
- But there are people with narcolepsy and
- 16 cataplexy at places that do not have access to
- 17 sleep-disorder centers and polysomnography. I
- 18 think that needs to be kept in mind or discussed on
- 19 some level as we are cogitating about this.
- DR. ROMAN: The problem is that you need
- 21 to go through the differential diagnosis of
- 22 excessive daytime sleepiness and the differential
- 23 diagnosis of cataplexy. In most cases, that is
- 24 going to require at least a polysomnogram, a sleep
- 25 test, to rule out obstructive sleep apnea,

- 1 restlessness, and what have you.
- 2 So, in most patients, at least those who
- 3 present for the first time to get this medication,
- 4 I don't see how you can avoid doing these tests.
- 5 DR. BLACK: I hate to interrupt, but a
- 6 point that I think is worth bringing up is that the
- 7 condition indication here is cataplexy. Cataplexy
- 8 is a clinical diagnosis not confirmed by any
- 9 testing or MSLT. If you are going to limit it to
- 10 cataplexy, I think it is important to recognize
- 11 that you can't make any verification on the
- 12 diagnosis with MSLT as far as the cataplexy goes.
- DR. KAWAS: Since we have you up there,
- 14 what percentage of people have isolated cataplexy
- 15 without narcolepsy and sleep attacks?
- DR. BLACK: It is incredibly rare.
- DR. KAWAS: Thanks.
- DR. BLACK: Incredibly so. But, on the
- 19 other hand, the incidence of cataplexy and
- 20 sleepiness without an MSLT that confirms it is a
- 21 modest subset. In other words, if you have
- 22 cataplexy, you won't necessarily have two sleep-onset REM
- 23 periods on your MSLT, so we need to keep
- 24 that in mind so that we don't potentially limit
- 25 folks with true sleepiness and cataplexy and

- 1 narcolepsy that don't show the MSLT findings.
- 2 It is not 100 percent specific or
- 3 sensitive.
- 4 DR. KAWAS: We have some people over on
- 5 this side who wanted to--
- 6 DR. LEIDERMAN: I just wanted to be clear
- 7 about the question that I think we were asking.
- 8 What was discussed internally within the agency was
- 9 the concern about off-label use. We all know that
- 10 drugs are used often more frequently for other than
- 11 their labeled indications. The question we wanted
- 12 to pose for this specific drug, does the committee
- 13 recommend restricting its prescription to the
- 14 labeled indication.
- DR. KAWAS: So, actually, I think maybe,
- 16 put in that context, we could call the question and
- 17 try a vote here. In the opinion of this committee,
- 18 are we recommending that this drug needs to be
- 19 restricted in some fashion to on-label use? All in
- 20 favor?
- 21 [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: Almost unanimously. Negative?
- [One hand raised.]
- DR. KAWAS: One negative vote from Dr.
- 25 Penn.

- DR. VAN BELLE: I am going to abstain
- 2 because I was out of the room.
- 3 DR. KAWAS: Dr. Van Belle is abstaining.
- 4 Everyone else voted yes; am I correct? So, did we
- 5 give you a better answer this time?
- 6 DR. KATZ: Yes. All your answers are
- 7 good.
- 8 DR. PENN: Isn't this the first time
- 9 anybody has ever suggested that the FDA should be
- 10 restricting off-label use of drugs?
- 11 DR. KATZ: I doubt. I don't know.
- DR. PENN: Isn't it stated in the FDA, all
- 13 of your regs, that you do not regulate medicine and
- 14 off-label use is up to the physician?
- DR. KATZ: I don't know if it says we
- 16 don't regulate medicine but, certainly, I think we
- 17 have the authority to do, I think, plenty of things
- 18 that some people might consider practice of
- 19 medicine. So I don't think, as far as I know,
- 20 there is any -- as far as I know, there is no legal
- 21 bar to this if that is the question you are asking.
- 22 I think we have done it in the past.
- DR. KAWAS: I think that I want to make
- 24 the comment that even if it was the first time that
- 25 the FDA was doing this, it certainly is not new to

1 medicine. Now, insurance companies routinely make

- 2 us do this.
- 3 DR. FALKOWSKI: I have one question, I
- 4 guess, or one concern, and I just want
- 5 clarification. Did I not read this correctly? I
- 6 tried to read it all, but nowhere does it says
- 7 gammahydroxybuterate. Is this correct, sponsors,
- 8 that there is not the word gammahydroxybuterate in
- 9 any of these doctor or patient things.
- In terms of issues here, I think it is
- 11 very important that the doctor information says
- 12 what this is.
- MS. ENGEL: As we worked with our
- 14 colleagues in law enforcement, they urged us not to
- 15 put gammahydroxybuterate as the generic name of the
- 16 materials, et cetera, because they felt, for
- 17 example, if you are a patient, and you have
- 18 something in your home that says
- 19 gammahydroxybuterate, that might actually be an
- 20 attractant to a babysitter or someone else.
- 21 So the attempt, based on the advice of law
- 22 enforcement, was to separate that out.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: I am not talking about
- 24 patient materials -- to the doctors. Will the
- 25 doctors get to know? They don't have their

- 1 materials sitting around their home.
- DR. KAWAS: Excuse me. Dr. Katz, is this
- 3 a question you would like the committee to discuss?
- 4 DR. KATZ: I think it is an interesting
- 5 question. I think we can work it out. The point
- 6 is well taken and, as the company says, they have
- 7 gotten conflicting advice for good reasons as well.
- 8 I think we can work it out.
- 9 DR. KAWAS: Great. Thanks.
- 10 DR. LEIDERMAN: I just wanted to respond
- 11 to Dr. Penn's comment about restrictions on
- 12 prescribing. Actually, there is some very recent
- 13 precedence in the non-CNS drug arena. The drug,
- 14 mifepristone, in fact, was approved under very
- 15 restricted distribution. It requires signed
- 16 documents by both physician and patient to be
- 17 returned to the distributor before and only a
- 18 restricted group of physicians who certify to a
- 19 certain ability to handle the complications are, in
- 20 fact, allowed to prescribe the drug.
- 21 So that is a precedent in the non-CNS
- 22 arena.
- DR. KAWAS: I am told that somebody on one
- 24 of our phone lines would like to make a comment?
- 25 Can you hear us?

1 DR. CHERWIN: Yes; I had wanted to make a

- 2 comment several comments ago, just to briefly
- 3 reiterate. I agree with Dr. Black said which may
- 4 be important that not all patients with cataplexy
- 5 have positive sleep studies. So, in addition to,
- 6 perhaps, in some cases, sleep studies not being
- 7 available, this is another concern.
- B DR. KAWAS: Thank you.
- 9 DR. CHERWIN: Another thing is that
- 10 cataplexy is not always a crystal-clear diagnosis.
- 11 Not too many people have talked about that, but
- 12 there can be cataplexy in the eye of one physician
- 13 that does not exist in the eyes of another
- 14 physician. That is a potential problem.
- 15 Finally, the International Classification
- 16 of Sleep Disorders, which is to the sleep field
- 17 similar to what the DSM is to psychiatrists, does
- 18 not specifically require a sleep study diagnose
- 19 narcolepsy.
- I thought those three things might be
- 21 salient to the discussion especially--since we sort
- 22 of jumped to the appropriate prescribing section,
- 23 maybe we can run through the questions there and
- 24 see how many of them we can quickly comment on for
- 25 Dr. Katz and the agency.

Should physicians document that they read

- 2 the material sent to them before the pharmacy fills
- 3 the initial prescription? If we took a straw vote
- 4 right now, how many people would say yes? How many
- 5 people would say no? Since we have got a split
- 6 here, of the people who are on the yes side right
- 7 now, would some of you like to comment on what kind
- 8 of documentation you want?
- 9 I mean, are we talking a signature saying,
- 10 "I have read the materials that were sent to me,"
- 11 or are we talking about something more than that?.
- 12 Jerry?
- DR. WOLINSKY: Again, it sort of depends
- 14 what we require or what might be expected for a
- 15 diagnosis rather than what would be required. I
- 16 think if a sleep specialist is comfortable with the
- 17 diagnosis in that patient, and refers the patient
- 18 back to treatment to that physician who is back in
- 19 North Dakota that you keep mentioning that can't
- 20 possibly have all of the diagnostic tests around,
- 21 then I think it is important that that physician in
- 22 North Dakota knows what they have signed on to.
- 23 If it is the sleep specialist who has got
- 24 150 patients on treatment because they are very
- 25 expert at this, if they have signed the document

- 1 once, that is probably enough for me.
- But I think these are details that I am
- 3 not sure that we need to work out today. There are
- 4 plenty of things that can be worked out by Russ and
- 5 his people.
- 6 DR. KAWAS: Russ and his people gave us
- 7 this question.
- 8 DR. KATZ: And we didn't anticipate,
- 9 necessarily, a vote. But right now, as I
- 10 understand the program, the initial prescription is
- 11 filled and then the physician and the patient have
- 12 to send back a card that says, "Yes; I read this
- 13 stuff." It was just some sentiment internally for
- 14 all of that documentation that, "Yes; I have read
- 15 it. Yes; I understand it," that is to happen even
- 16 before the first prescription was filled.
- 17 We are going to get into major problems if
- 18 we try and apply a different standard to different
- 19 types of treating physicians, the expert versus the
- 20 non-expert. Actually, this was one of the issues
- 21 that I actually did want. A lot of them are not
- 22 necessarily that critical but this was one of the
- 23 few that I really wanted some discussion on. There
- 24 are a lot of other details I think we can take care
- 25 of.

- 1 DR. WOLINSKY: But I guess I was saying
- 2 that, that even the expert would sign it. He just
- 3 wouldn't have to sign it every time he gives out a
- 4 new dose.
- DR. KATZ: No, no, no. We don't
- 6 anticipate that.
- 7 DR. KAWAS: Once.
- 8 DR. KATZ: I just meant the first time you
- 9 give a dose to a particular patient, you would sign
- 10 a card before the initial prescription was filled
- 11 for that patient. That is what I think we
- 12 anticipate.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: On a patient by patient?
- DR. KAWAS: I want to make the comment
- 15 that I am comfortable with the notion of physicians
- 16 having to sign for this potentially, but I am not
- 17 comfortable with what was suggested as a mechanism
- 18 to have it happen by the sponsor and that is
- 19 sending a drug representative to the physician's
- 20 office. I really feel very strongly that is not
- 21 the way this should be done.
- 22 Dr. Penix?
- DR. PENIX: This is a question for Dr.
- 24 Katz. What is the purpose of the physician signing
- 25 such a document?

DR. KATZ: It is just to acknowledge that

- 2 they have read the material and that they are
- 3 familiar with its safe use and that they have
- 4 spoken to the patient about its safe use.
- 5 Actually, that is a separate question, but it is
- 6 all combined -- that they know how the drug should be
- 7 used, what its risks are, what the penalties are
- 8 for inappropriate use.
- 9 DR. KAWAS: Doesn't it also sort of
- 10 acknowledge that this is a somewhat unusual drug in
- 11 some sense because every drug has all these risks
- 12 in prescribing and we don't ask any physician to
- 13 sign for all those drugs.
- I sense on the committee a growing concern
- 15 that the more drugs we have to sign for, the more
- 16 uncomfortable they are becoming. But I think,
- 17 really, it points out to the physician who is
- 18 signing it that there is something different here.
- DR. PENIX: I think, also, in that sense,
- 20 it is important for the physician-information
- 21 packet that they are aware that this drug is GHB
- 22 and so, therefore, they may understand why it is
- 23 required for them to sign this information.
- 24 I think that is really the bottom line.
- 25 So I think it would be useful for a treating

- 1 physician to know what type of drug this is.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: I would say yes only if it
- 3 says it is GHB.
- 4 DR. DYER: Wouldn't CII make that implicit
- 5 to know that this is a drug that has illegal
- 6 implications and would be dangerous?
- 7 DR. KATZ: It is Schedule III.
- 8 DR. DYER: I am saying it belongs in
- 9 Schedule II.
- 10 DR. KATZ: I think that question has been
- 11 dealt with definitively. It has been legislated as
- 12 Schedule III by Congress.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: Right. That was
- 14 legislated at another time.
- DR. PENIX: Not to belabor this, but I
- 16 agree with that drug company's position not to let
- 17 the patient information -- or not include GHB in the
- 18 patient information. But I think the treating
- 19 physician should be aware of that.
- 20 DR. KAWAS: I think that is a very
- 21 important point because physicians do have a
- 22 knowledge base of GHB even if it is from the
- 23 newspaper or whatever to insure that they
- 24 understand what it is.
- DR. ROMAN: It also has the legal

- 1 implications of a physician somewhere who has been
- 2 prescribing this at a higher rate than expected for
- 3 that population. He may find his licensing--and a
- 4 problem if they find that he is prescribing more of
- 5 these, let's say more than a couple of patients in
- 6 a year, or whatever it is that delimits.
- 7 So we need to look into that because there
- 8 is potentially a risk for medical licensing.
- 9 DR. KAWAS: Can we see if we have shifted
- 10 the straw vote from about a 50:50 split to
- 11 something that is more consensuslike for the
- 12 agency? On the question, should physicians
- 13 document that they read the material sent to them
- 14 before the pharmacy fills the initial prescription,
- 15 presumably, some of those materials would
- 16 incorporate the fact that what this drug really is
- 17 is GHB whether or not it is on the bottle.
- 18 All in favor?
- 19 [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: Nos?
- 21 [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: And no abstentions. So let
- 23 the record show that nos were Dr. Richard Penn and
- 24 Dr. Gerald Van Belle. The remainder of the
- 25 committee voted yes. No abstentions.

- Should physicians be required to
- 2 demonstrate safe use and appropriate dosage
- 3 preparation to patients before the first
- 4 prescription and be required to document that it
- 5 has been accomplished? Do we want to try a straw
- 6 vote and see if we can keep on going?
- 7 I think I will make the comment that
- 8 patient education is too important and sorely
- 9 underdone in this medical world that that is true
- 10 for everything. I think, personally, that it would
- 11 be the hope that, with all drugs, that the
- 12 healthcare team will insure these demonstrations.
- 13 I am going to suggest that we do not need to
- 14 require any specific demonstration or any specific
- 15 certification of this process.
- 16 I see some heads going in different
- 17 directions. Let me get a straw sense on this one.
- 18 Should physicians be required to demonstrate safe
- 19 use and dosage? How many people are going to say
- 20 yes? Straw vote.
- 21 DR. FALKOWSKI: Is the intent here that it
- 22 just be demonstrated regardless of who does it,
- 23 whether it is a nurse or a physician? What is your
- 24 intent?
- DR. KATZ: The intent was that -- I don't

- 1 think we necessarily meant the physician but
- 2 someone responsible in the physician's employ. It
- 3 shows them how to draw it up and how much your dose
- 4 is.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: Should somebody
- 6 demonstrate how you administer this drug before the
- 7 patient takes it. So I think that is a good
- 8 question. Can we take a vote on that?
- 9 DR. KAWAS: You mean someone in the
- 10 physician's office should be required to
- 11 demonstrate it and, in some way, ascertain it. The
- 12 question is called on that. Who votes yes?
- DR. VAN BELLE: Before we vote, there is a
- 14 further addition to that statement here, and it
- 15 says, "And be required to document that it has been
- 16 accomplished." Are you intending to have that
- 17 included as well?
- DR. KAWAS: I think everything that
- 19 happens in a physician's office needs to be
- 20 documented. So, yes. That is why we are writing
- 21 twenty-seven page H&Ps right now.
- 22 So we have got one vote yes? Is that all?
- 23 Dr. Falkowski. No votes?
- 24 [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: Abstentions.

- [One hand raised.]
- DR. KAWAS: We have got one abstention
- 3 with Dr. Simpson and the remainder of the committee
- 4 voted no.
- 5 DR. WOLINSKY: Having voted no on that in
- 6 terms of the office personnel and the physician, it
- 7 seems to me that it would be advantageous to the
- 8 company to have first doses shown in the home when
- 9 medication arrives. This is actually the effective
- 10 education.
- 11 What goes on in the physician's office, my
- 12 bias is, may not be as effective as with home nurse
- 13 agents.
- DR. KAWAS: I think we are not going to
- 15 repeat the restricted prescribing for the drug
- 16 question. We have gone over that adequately, I
- 17 hope.
- 18 But the next one, does the risk-management
- 19 program assure appropriate prescribing or
- 20 sufficiently reduce the risks of misuse or
- 21 overdose. I am not quite sure where to start with
- 22 this one. Actually, Dr. Katz, which components of
- 23 the risk-management program are you asking us to
- 24 comment on?
- DR. KATZ: That is a fair question. This

- 1 is sort of a global question, I think. To the
- 2 extent that you have seen the details of the
- 3 proposal, is there anything that leaps out at you
- 4 as being absolutely inappropriate, or is there
- 5 something that is not there that is a glaring
- 6 omission that you all believe absolutely should be
- 7 there?
- 8 I think that is sort of the sense of the
- 9 question.
- 10 DR. PENN: Yes. I don't think the
- 11 potential problems of the drug are explained to the
- 12 patient adequately. That is, the narcoleptic
- 13 patient won't necessarily know that this is an
- 14 abused drug or if they take it in the wrong way
- 15 that they can get into a lot of trouble and that
- 16 the real education has to be to the patient in some
- 17 manner.
- 18 I usually think that is the responsibility
- 19 of the physician to do that, but I don't see that -- I mean,
- 20 we are protecting the patient from knowing
- 21 what the name of the drug is. We are protecting
- 22 them from knowing what the real side effects might
- 23 be.
- 24 It doesn't say that if you take double the
- 25 dose, it may have more than double the effect and

- 1 that you may go into coma and become incontinent
- 2 and have seizure--well, probably not seizure but
- 3 stop breathing or something unpleasant like that.
- I think the emphasis should be on the
- 5 patient understanding the medication and how to use
- 6 it. The narcoleptic community suffers enough and
- 7 has pretty good ways of letting each other know
- 8 about the disease. Maybe you should use their
- 9 ability to instruct patients on the proper way to
- 10 do it and combine it in some way.
- 11 But that is where I think the glaring
- 12 error is. This is a drug with very little leeway
- 13 for dosing and people have to understand they
- 14 shouldn't use it during the day, for example,
- 15 because they won't have this period of time off.
- 16 So I think there is a huge amount to be
- 17 done. I just don't like to see it done in this
- 18 mandatory fashion because I don't think it will
- 19 work. You will get a lot of signed papers, but you
- 20 won't get the education you need done.
- 21 DR. KATZ: But I just want to clarify. I
- 22 understand your reservations about the entire
- 23 process but, given that there is a document that
- 24 goes to the patient that ostensibly tells them what
- 25 they need to know about using the drug safely, you

- 1 believe that that document that is currently
- 2 written really needs to be beefed up as far as
- 3 communicating to the patient what the risks are and
- 4 how to use it?
- DR. PENN: Yes; I think that the patient
- 6 has to know what it is, that it is an abused
- 7 substance that potentially can be abused. It would
- 8 be like our not telling patients who use oxicodon
- 9 not to chop it in two and take it. That gets them
- 10 into trouble and they ought to know about that.
- 11 So there is a lot of education that has to
- 12 be done with this medication.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: I think I already
- 14 addressed this question by saying I think the word
- 15 gammahydroxybuterate should appear for patients and
- 16 particularly for the physicians, the prescribing
- 17 physicians. What is the secret? The way to have a
- 18 drug come into the market when it is already a
- 19 substance of abuse is not to pretend it doesn't
- 20 exist and not even call it what it is.
- 21 I don't think that is an informed approach
- 22 for physicians to know what it is.
- DR. LACEY: Just as one presenter, and I
- 24 don't remember who, today gave us the common names,
- 25 the club names and everything. I think the patient

- 1 actually should be provided with as much of that
- 2 information as possible. To not want to put it on
- 3 the printed book or something because it is exposed
- 4 to someone else is one thing. But the patient
- 5 should be provided as much information as possible
- 6 to know what they are dealing with.
- 7 DR. KAWAS: Any other comments before we
- 8 move on to the next question? Jerry?
- 9 DR. VAN BELLE: Let me just make a
- 10 comment. I agree with that and, also, from the
- 11 practical point of view, we have already heard this
- 12 afternoon that the narcolepsy website network is
- 13 just far flung. If this is going to be approved by
- 14 the FDA, the word will be out in the next fifteen
- 15 minutes.
- 16 So to play coy and not put it on one set
- 17 of labels is just not going to work.
- DR. ROMAN: I completely agree. The USA
- 19 Today had the title, "Company wants date-rape drug
- 20 approved for a sleep-disorder treatment." If that
- 21 is in the newspapers--
- DR. FALKOWSKI: This question is--it is my
- 23 understanding, and I asked for clarification for
- 24 this prior to the beginning of this meeting today--that we
- 25 are voting here on specific questions. Is

- 1 the determination of approval made upon FDA's
- 2 consideration of what we talked about today?
- 3 DR. KATZ: Well, sure.
- 4 DR. FALKOWSKI: Is it made today?
- DR. KATZ: Is the decision about what to
- 6 do with the application made today? Absolutely
- 7 not, no. Your opinions are all advisory. We take
- 8 them very seriously and then we go back and we
- 9 discuss it internally and we come to a decision, by
- 10 the PDUFA due date.
- DR. KAWAS: Going to the next question,
- 12 can I ask, Dr. Katz--tell us what do you mean by
- 13 certification and certification of physicians for
- 14 prescribing?
- DR. KATZ: There was some sense,
- 16 internally, on the part of some people that
- 17 physicians should--first of all, that it might be
- 18 restricted to use only by sleep experts or
- 19 physicians would have to somehow take a test to
- 20 show that they know about narcolepsy, that sort of
- 21 thing, that they are appropriate prescribers in
- 22 some sense.
- DR. KAWAS: So we are not talking about
- 24 the same thing that we were talking about
- 25 previously, documenting that they have read

1 whatever materials with the first prescription that

- 2 they write?
- 3 DR. KATZ: It is something more than that.
- 4 DR. KAWAS: Okay. Let's take a straw vote
- 5 on that. I think we can get past that one
- 6 potentially fast, then. We are talking about more
- 7 than just documenting that you have seen materials.
- 8 Should certification of physicians, or some other
- 9 restrictions, for prescribing Xyrem be required?
- 10 Straw vote. How many people think yes? How many
- 11 people think no? How many people are abstaining?
- 12 Let the record show that Dr. Wolinsky
- 13 abstained. I am not sure, but I need to know why.
- DR. WOLINSKY: Well, I am internally
- 15 conflicted on this. When I say conflicted, I don't
- 16 mean that I have some stockholdings anywhere but
- 17 that I am--
- DR. KAWAS: Anyone knows when they use
- 19 that word they have time on the floor.
- DR. WOLINSKY: I haven't come to a final
- 21 decision in my own mind, but I would lean towards,
- 22 I guess, certification of physicians when the
- 23 circumstances are special. That doesn't actually
- 24 keep patients from assessing care. It may mean
- 25 that they have to be diagnosed in an appropriate

- 1 situation and then can be cared for by a physician
- 2 who is willing to educate themselves about how to
- 3 best use the drug.
- I know that most of my colleagues won't
- 5 like this but I think that this is where we have to
- 6 go if medicine is to maintain credibility with an
- 7 increasingly complex medical world that we live in.
- B DR. KAWAS: Now to go backwards to No. 5,
- 9 which the questions deal with safe use by the
- 10 patient. Should the patient sign an informed
- 11 consent form before receiving the initial shipment
- 12 of the drug? Straw vote. How many people think
- 13 yes? How many people think no?
- 14 I won't ask Dr. Penn.
- DR. PENN: I am worried about the medical-legal
- 16 implications of informed consent in this
- 17 situation. What does informed consent mean? Who
- 18 signs it? All the things we get to in the
- 19 controlled trials and that we deal with daily in
- 20 the university setting.
- It seems to me that, unless we work out
- 22 the details, I can't feel comfortable voting for
- 23 it.
- 24 DR. KAWAS: Actually, I abstained on the
- 25 straw vote. My concern, and maybe my question is,

- 1 informed consent about what? Presumably, we are
- 2 talking about some version of the education that we
- 3 have said they need to have. So is this just an
- 4 acknowledgment of that education? What is it we
- 5 want to make sure that they are informed about and
- 6 get a signature to verify that?
- 7 DR. KATZ: Usually, informed consent is -- it mostly
- 8 emphasizes the potential risks. There
- 9 are drugs, of course, that have informed consent as
- 10 part of their approval. So that was the question.
- 11 Given the potential risks of this particular
- 12 treatment, do people think that patients need to
- 13 sign an informed consent.
- 14 It is unusual, but there certainly are
- 15 precedents for it.
- 16 DR. PENIX: I think informed consent does
- 17 imply a certain medical-legal situation but,
- 18 perhaps, a contract like they use in many pain-management
- 19 centers so that the patients acknowledge
- 20 the problems with the dispensing of the drug and
- 21 that type of thing. So maybe a contract would be a
- 22 better idea than an informed consent.
- DR. KATZ: Again, we put it on the list
- 24 because it was raised internally at several
- 25 discussions that we had. It doesn't mean that we

- 1 necessarily, as a group, endorse it or most of us
- 2 think it is a good idea. It was an option. We
- 3 wanted to see what you thought about it.
- 4 DR. WOLINSKY: Call that question again.
- DR. KAWAS: Does that mean you want to
- 6 change your vote?
- 7 DR. WOLINSKY: I would like to withdraw my
- 8 yes because this is much more complicated than
- 9 immediately meets the eye and goes beyond what we
- 10 really need, given all the other things that are
- 11 already in this package.
- DR. KAWAS: Okay. Do we need any more
- 13 discussion before we call the question the second
- 14 time? Any other comments people want to make?
- 15 Should patients sign an informed-consent form
- 16 before receiving the initial shipment of the drug.
- 17 All who think yes, raise their hand.
- [Show of hands.]
- DR. KAWAS: Let's go around the table and
- 20 identify the yes votes.
- 21 DR. SIMPSON: Simpson.
- DR. FALKOWSKI: Falkowski.
- DR. ROMAN: Roman.
- DR. LACEY: Lacey.
- DR. VAN BELLE: Van Belle.

DR. KAWAS: All who think no.

- DR. WOLINSKY: Wolinsky.
- DR, KAWAS: Kawas.
- 4 DR. PENN: Penn.
- DR. PENIX: Penix.
- DR. KAWAS: Okay; we are set there.
- 7 Furthermore, should the patients be
- 8 required to return a registry form before receiving
- 9 the first shipment? Now, I assume that a registry
- 10 form that we are talking about is kept by the
- 11 sponsor?
- DR. KATZ: Again, this analogous to what
- 13 we talked about with the physician. The idea here
- 14 was right now, the plan calls for such a form to be
- 15 submitted after the first prescription is filled,
- 16 that they have read the materials, they have
- 17 received them and they have read them.
- 18 The question here was just whether or not
- 19 you think that all has to happen before they even
- 20 get the first dose.
- DR. KAWAS: To my mind, that simplifies it.
- 22 considerably, then. Straw vote. How many people
- 23 think yes, it should be done before not after or
- 24 with the first dose.
- 25 DR. SIMPSON: Is this in addition to the

- 1 consent form?
- DR. KAWAS: This is different than the
- 3 consent form; yes.
- 4 DR. SIMPSON: So, would it be in addition?
- 5 I mean, if they did the consent form, would they
- 6 need to fill out another form and send it in?
- 7 DR. KAWAS: I am not sure I am the right
- 8 person to answer that because I don't know whether
- 9 or not there is going to be a consent form. But
- 10 maybe Dr. Katz could --
- DR. KATZ: We asked it separately. They
- 12 are two different things, although they are very
- 13 closely related, I suppose. If you sign a informed
- 14 consent that says, "I know what the risks are.
- 15 "The card--what do we call it--a registry card.
- 16 That presumably could be something that says, "I
- 17 have read the material. I assert that I know how
- 18 to draw the appropriate dose up. I know how to mix
- 19 it. I know that I have to mix both doses first."
- 20 They have a sense of how it is supposed to
- 21 be taken. So you would imagine it would have
- 22 different information, could have different
- 23 information, than an informed-consent form.
- DR. KAWAS: So the registry, actually,
- 25 has--it is not just a name, address, serial number

- 1 of a person who is getting the drug. That is not
- 2 what we are talking about in the registry form? We
- 3 are talking about-
- 4 DR. KATZ: I think the idea here was, as I
- 5 said before, whether or not, analogous to the
- 6 question with regard to the physicians, that they
- 7 have read the materials, what I intended, anyway,
- 8 for this question was the exactly analogous
- 9 situation for the patient.
- 10 Should the patient have to send the form
- 11 back. It would be a registry form, I suppose, in
- 12 terms of who they are, but the pharmacist already
- 13 knows who they are so they get into the registry
- 14 that way, I suppose.
- But whether or not they have read the
- 16 material and they understand what the risks are and
- 17 they understand how to take the appropriate dose,
- 18 just before the first dose.
- 19 DR. KAWAS: Okay. Now I think we can
- 20 better take a straw vote.
- DR. SIMPSON: I just wanted to say I
- 22 thought the consent form was that.
- DR. KAWAS: But, having rephrased it for
- 24 us, I think essentially what we are saying is now
- 25 we have said that we want the physicians to certify

- 1 that they have read, know and understand some of
- 2 the issues, the question is, should we ask the
- 3 patients to do the same thing.
- 4 All who think yes, raise your hand.
- 5 [Show of hands.]
- 6 DR. KAWAS: And nos?
- 7 [Show of hands.]
- 8 DR. KAWAS: I think we have got a bunch of
- 9 abstentions, mostly. Would you like to comment no
- 10 your thinking?
- DR. PENIX: I think it is just pretty
- 12 complicated. I am not sure what a registry is
- 13 going to do, what the drug company is going to do,
- 14 with the information, who should keep the
- 15 information. There are a lot of different issues,
- 16 so I guess, in the late hour, I am going to
- 17 abstain.
- DR. LACEY: I would think these two things
- 19 could be combined into one some way or the other.
- 20 If they can't, it is just getting to be too
- 21 complicated in terms of all the forms and whatever,
- 22 so they are losing interest in it.
- DR. KAWAS: Are you talking about the
- 24 patient or the committee? No; I think that
- 25 something really important was just said here,

- 1 actually. I think that if we put too many layers
- 2 that nobody is going to pay attention to any single
- 3 layer here. The whole idea is to do exactly the
- 4 opposite, to have both the patients and the
- 5 physicians taking this seriously.
- 6 Anybody can write in a patient's chart, "I
- 7 have demonstrated how to do a safe dosage through
- 8 the patient," and signed their initials. That only
- 9 takes a few seconds. Getting them to spend the
- 10 time to do it in the office is quite a different
- 11 thing.
- 12 Obviously, what is more important is what
- 13 is actually done and not what is certified. But
- 14 let me see if I am getting the flavor from this
- 15 committee that, in general, they think there should
- 16 be one certification, registration, informed-consent process
- 17 or whatever for both physician and
- 18 for patient. Is that the gist of what we have been
- 19 saying?
- 20 All who agree with that statement, straw
- 21 vote, yes. All who think no.
- DR. PENN: I abstain.
- DR. KAWAS: Oh, gosh. And Dr. Penn
- 24 abstains and we are not going to even bother
- 25 finding out why.

- 1 Dr. Katz?
- DR. KATZ: Given the late hour and the
- 3 list that still remains, I don't think we really
- 4 need much in the way of discussion or even a vote,
- 5 or a straw vote, on any of the other remaining
- 6 issues.
- 7 I would ask, though, the committee members
- 8 to just sort of quickly glance at it, or not, as
- 9 you wish. But, again, if there is anything that
- 10 strikes you as being a glaring omission in the
- 11 program as proposed and as amended by your previous
- 12 votes, just sing out. But I don't think we need
- 13 any detailed discussion of the rest. I think we
- 14 can sort of work it out.
- DR. KAWAS: I would like to make the
- 16 comment that, at least on the postmarket
- 17 surveillance, I think there should be required
- 18 postmarketing reporting, surveillance, monitoring.
- DR. PENIX: In addition to the usual
- 20 adverse effects, of course.
- DR. KAWAS: Are there any other comments
- 22 or thoughts from the committee particularly on the
- 23 items we didn't specifically discuss like central
- 24 pharmacy, postmarketing surveillance or other
- 25 recommendations on protecting--

- 1 happens.
- We won't be down at the first line making
- 3 sure that the pharmacist is calling the patients
- 4 within 24 hours. But, like many other things,
- 5 there is an understanding that the company is
- 6 responsible for making sure any given system of
- 7 surveillance is working appropriately and we have
- 8 interactions with them periodically.
- 9 So that is as far as we have gotten.
- 10 DR. LEIDERMAN: There are also precedents,
- 11 at least for independent monitoring committees.
- 12 And that has certainly been in approval agreements
- 13 in the past. So that is the kind of thing that I
- 14 think we need to work out.
- DR. KAWAS: Unless there are any more
- 16 burning comments or thoughts or theories, I would
- 17 really like to thank the company, the agency, the
- 18 members of the panel and all the invited speakers
- 19 as well as the speakers from the public forum for
- 20 this interesting and challenging day
- This meeting is now adjourned.
- 22 [Whereupon, at 6:00 p.m., the meeting was
- 23 adjourned.]
- 24 - •

Risk Management Through Responsible Distribution **Xyrem Success Program** and Appropriate Education

Patti Engel, R.N., BSN

Vice President of Marketing & Sales Orphan Medical, Inc.

Xyrem Success Program

to ensure responsible distribution and A comprehensive system designed use of Xyrem

Goals:

 Allow access to Xyrem for patients who need it

 Make Xyrem inaccessible to those who would use it inappropriately

Xyrem Success Program

 Initiated by Orphan Medical and developed after extensive consultation with:

Narcolepsy patients

Toxicologists

 Forensics experts Patient/Family support groups

Physicians who treat

Emergency medicine

physicians

narcolepsy

Drug diversion investigators

Field law enforcement

State controlled substance

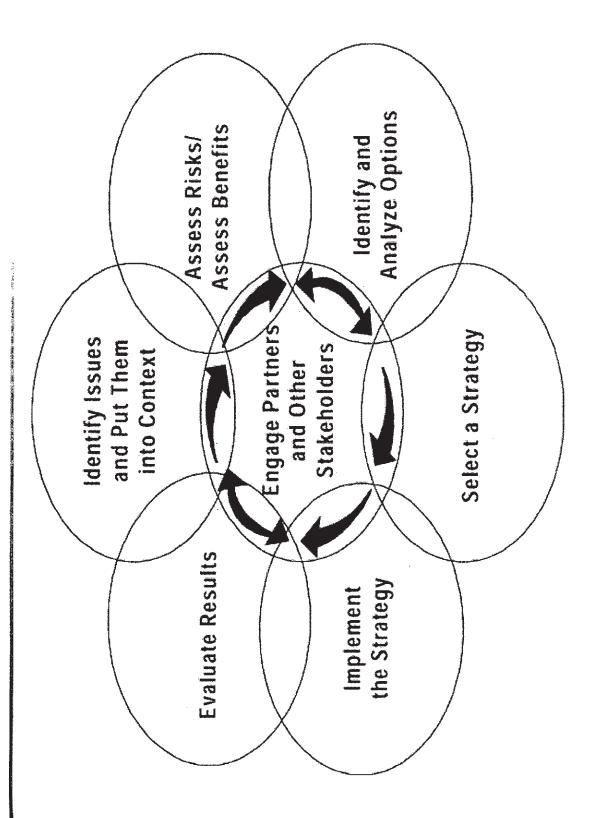
Poison control center directors

authorities

Drug abuse trend experts

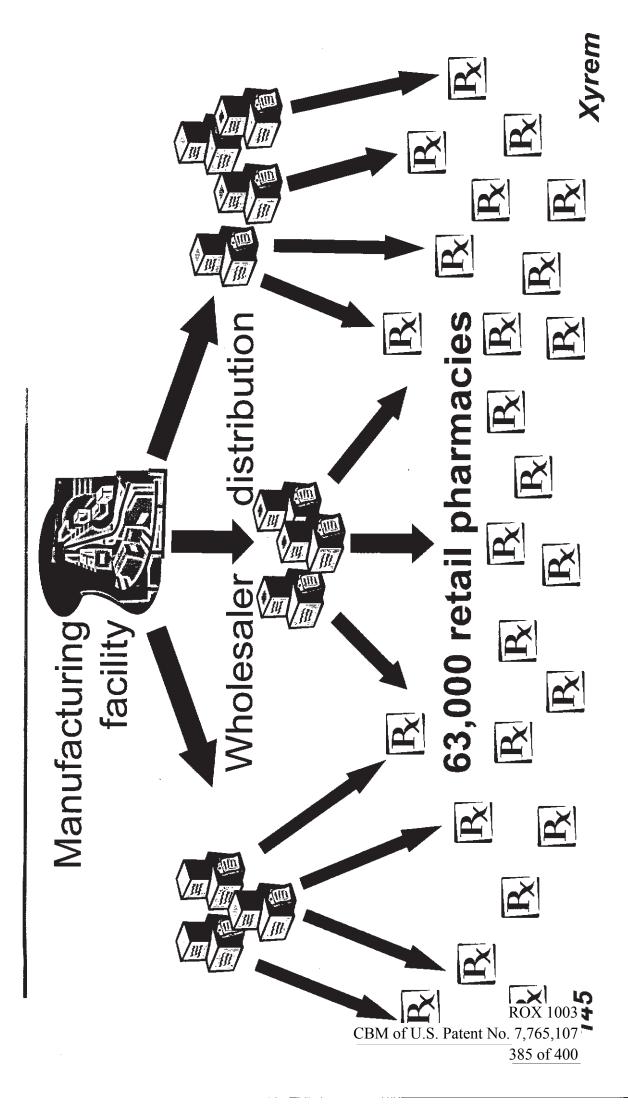
Pharmaceutical distribution experts

Risk Management Through Risk Confrontation



ROX 1003 CBM of U.S. Patent No. 7,765,107 384 of 400

Standard Pharmaceutical Distribution



Xyrem Closed Distribution System



Single Manufacturing Facility



Single Specialty Pharmacy





ROX 1003 TO ROX 10

Xyrem's Distribution

One Specialty Pharmacy

Xyrem distributed from a single location

Controls

Records

Physician Promotion and Education

will focus on potential physician prescribers Xyrem promotional and educational efforts

Key specialties include:

Neurology

Pulmonary diseases

Psychiatry

Internal medicine

 Sleep medicine (includes several primary specialties)

Physician Promotion and Education

 Approximately 35 sales representatives will call on physicians and their clinical staffs

Communicate clinical benefits of Xyrem

 Present Xyrem Physician Success ProgramsM

◆Physician signature required

No physician sampling

Physician Success Program Materials

Multi-faceted education program

Distribution process

Xyrem dosing and administration

Home storage and secure handling

"Doctor be wary"

Unique prescription form

Contact information at Specialty Pharmacy

Prescription Process

Physician decides to prescribe Xyrem

Physician faxes a special Rx to Specialty Pharmacy Specialty Pharmacy assigns patient to dedicated pharmacy team

Physician Verification

 Specialty Pharmacy verifies physician is "eligible" to prescribe Xyrem:

DEA's NTIS database

◆MD licensure

Current CIII prescribing privileges

State medical board

Patient Verification

Specialty Pharmacy calls prescribing physician's office

◆ Verify the Rx

Pre-Shipment Patient Counseling

Specialty Pharmacy contacts patient:

 Determine patient/designee location and availability for receipt of Rx shipment

Explain contents of shipment

Rapid Trac® System

Detailed, real-time tracking

Delivered ONLY by authorized signature

returned to Specialty Pharmacy after one If patient/designee unavailable, package re-delivery attempt

If lost, investigation begins regarding shipment's whereabouts

Patient Success Program Materials

Multi-faceted education program

Distribution process

Xyrem dosing and administration

Home storage and secure handling

Criminal and civil penalties for illicit use

 Contact information at Specialty **Pharmacy**

Reimbursement information

Post-receipt Contact

 Once received, Specialty Pharmacist contacts patient within 24 hours to:

Confirm receipt of package

◆Discuss with patient:

◆Penalties for illicit use

Xyrem dosing and administration

Home storage and secure handling

◆Discuss child resistant packaging

Benefits of Central Data Repository

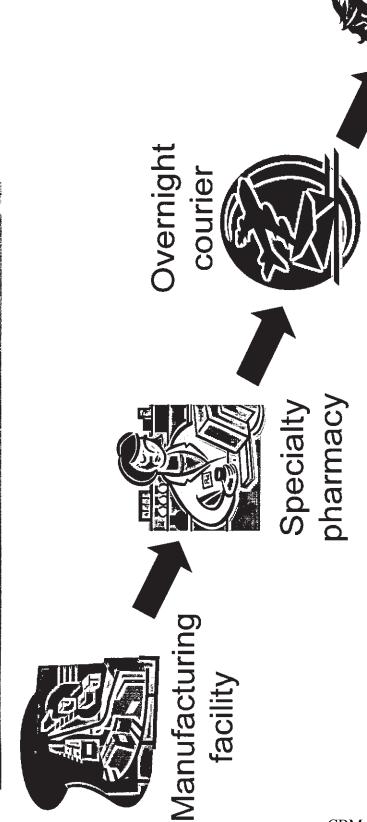
- Identification of:
- Duplicate prescriptions
- ◆Over-prescribing
- Over-use by patients
- Information prior to filling Rx
- Appropriate pharmacist intervention

Xyrem Success Program

ensures the responsible distribution of A comprehensive program that Xyrem, resulting in:

 Availability of Xyrem to patients who need it Inaccessibility to those who would use it illicitly

Xyrem Closed Distribution System



Patient

ROX 1003 CBM of U.S. Patent No. 7,765,107 400 of 400