

F. Heller 1972

October 22, 1972

TO: Alfred Freedman, M.D.
From: Max Fink, M.D.
Subject: Request of Pennsylvania Medical Society regarding
CO2 Therapy for Opiate Dependence

I have read the submission of the protocol (which is incomplete), letter of transmittal, and testimonials by Dr. LaVerne.

Except for the testimonials and the alleged private practice data, the documents are devoid of the type of information required to assess the usefulness of the therapeutic studies. The program lacks a theoretic basis, and except for the spurious association between the availability of the technique and the availability of the patients in the same office, there is no justification or basis for the application of the inhalations in drug addiction.

Since the Pennsylvania Medical Society has already presented the information to a most sophisticated panel (Drs. Brill, Seevers, and Primm), it seems an unnecessary duplication of effort for this unit to attempt an evaluation of the data submitted.

Considering the possibility of undertaking an evaluation of CO2 therapy at the New York Medical College, I would not recommend such a course at this time: there is no basis for the study; the risks are great; and prior commitments preclude the use of our limited facilities at this time.

As a political expedient, referral of this agency to SAODAP would serve two purposes: it could occupy some of their time and effort; and if the project has merit, they have the funds and the connections to establish the studies in the national interest.