

73SB-527

February 9th, 1973

TO: Arik Brissenden, M.D.
FROM: Max Fink, M.D.
SUBJECT: DATC - Use of methadone

In discussing the methadone delivery program this morning I found that we are using tablets (Diskets). This form is easily sold and easily converted to an intravenous formulation and should be interdicted.

Please request the pharmacy to return all stocks of Diskets, and effective as soon as they can, obtain powder methadone or concentrate methadone, to use these formulations only. Methadone should be dispensed in a liquid at a concentration of 5 mg per cc. and distributed in bottles of single dose per bottle for each patient.

It is useful for our liquid preparation to be disguised with food coloring - the varieties commercially available for baking are safe. I would suggest that we not use either red or orange, since these are in wide use in New York, but would recommend green or blue.

In view of the dangers in the use of Diskets, I would urge you to arrange to make this change immediately.

MF/ij