



Philadelphia, PA; June 10, 2005 -- The following statement was issued by Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC, President of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN), in response to the June 10 *New York Times* article on use of cisapride (Propulsid) for the treatment of acid reflux in young children:

“As the leading society in the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition, NASPGHAN’s sole purpose is to ensure that children with digestive disorders receive the best medical care available. This includes following a rigorous scientific process to develop evidence-based clinical guidelines that represent the consensus of our organization, using methods developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Moreover, NASPGHAN requires all physicians who draft guidelines to sign a conflict of interest disclosure statement in advance. It is also official NASPGHAN policy not to accept any industry funding for development of clinical guidelines.

Following these processes and procedures, NASPGHAN conducted an evaluation of the peer-reviewed published literature and in 1999 issued a Position Paper entitled “The Use of Cisapride in Children” summarizing the state of the science at the time. Neither Johnson & Johnson nor any other corporate supporter had any role in the development of the Position Paper or subsequent educational outreach programs.

NASPGHAN takes very seriously its role in educating healthcare professionals and the public about issues relevant to children’s digestive health issues, which is why the organization functions according to a published set of ‘Principles of Corporate Support and Partnership.’ These principles clearly state that under no circumstances will NASPGHAN endorse any product, brand or company, permit any supporter to have input into the development or content of educational materials, or determine review criteria or selection of grant recipients.

We stand by these principles and will continue to ensure that relationships with corporate supporters conform to this policy.

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The mission of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition is to be a world leader in advancing the science and clinical practice of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition in health and disease