



January 26, 2015

Barton Bonn, President  
American Suntanning Association  
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Dear Mr. Bonn:

We have reviewed your information quality appeal related to the CDC website regarding indoor tanning. The Information Quality Appeal you submitted on October 30, 2014 followed a response submitted by CDC to the Information Quality Request submitted on April 16, 2014 and the amended request submitted on August 15, 2014. The October filing again requested the removal of the following sentence from CDC's website: "Indoor tanning is particularly dangerous for younger users; people who begin tanning during adolescence or early adulthood have a higher risk of getting melanoma."

We respectfully decline the request to remove the statement, because it is scientifically supported by epidemiological studies and meta-analyses that have consistently found associations between age of onset of indoor tanning and later risk for melanoma. As you have pointed out in your appeal, it is true that at this time it is not known whether the increased risk for younger ages is due to higher frequency of use of indoor tanning that is likely associated with earlier onset. Nonetheless, the statement merely describes the association between earlier tanning and higher risk for melanoma. To ensure proper clarity, we will add a statement to provide additional information about frequency of use. The website language will now state: "Indoor tanning is particularly dangerous for younger users; people who begin tanning during adolescence or early adulthood have a higher risk of getting melanoma. This may be due to greater use of indoor tanning among those who begin tanning at earlier ages."

The inclusion of this statement provides additional information that may explain the association between earlier onset and risk of melanoma. As you point out in your appeal, several scientific studies have found evidence that frequency of use may account for the association between indoor tanning during adolescence or early adulthood and risk of melanoma.

As to your statement about the public health risks, there is no scientific evidence to suggest that messages to avoid indoor tanning increase risk for outdoor tanning or sunburn. CDC is committed to sharing scientifically accurate information about public health risks associated with risk behaviors. We will continue to conduct epidemiologic

research and studies on risk communication to ensure that our audiences have access to the most up-to-date information about the risks of cancer. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ursula Bauer, Ph.D., MPH  
Director  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)

cc:

Lisa C. Richardson, MD, MPH, Director, DCPC  
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