



United States of America
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20580

Richard A. Quaresima
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices

June 3, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO info@drgonzalezmd.com
Miguel Gonzalez, MD, FACP, FCCP
303 S. Moorpark Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

Re: Unsubstantiated claims for Coronavirus prevention and treatment

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at <https://www.drgonzalezmd.com/> in May 2020. We have also reviewed your social media websites at <https://www.facebook.com/drgonzalezmd/> and <https://www.instagram.com/drgonzalezmd/> where you promote your IV vitamin therapy. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products or services treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus prevention or cure claims on your websites include:

- On your social media websites at <https://www.facebook.com/drgonzalezmd/> and <https://www.instagram.com/drgonzalezmd/>:
 - In similar posts on January 21, you post an article titled, “First case of China-linked coronavirus reported in US, federal officials say.” On Instagram, you state: “Now is the time to boost your immunity and fight off viruses, colds and flu. This virus is now on top of the flu and respiratory illness that is already going around our local community. I definitely recommend IV Vitamin C if you are planning on air travel, or already have a weakened immune system. We have same day appointments available, give us a call.” On Facebook, you state: “Time to boost your immunity with Vitamin D and C. If you have to travel, I would definitely come in for a Vit C IV to give your immune system its best chance to fight off viruses, colds and flus. Same day appointments available in Thousand Oaks.”

- In posts on January 29, you state: “The coronavirus is now confirmed at over 6000 with 6 in the US. China is overwhelmed with the sick, building huge hospitals in DAYS to handle them...Per the World Health Organization, the risk in the US is High. A strong immune system and avoidance of infected persons or areas is your best defense. Vitamin C is your best immune system boost. Either orally or ideally by IV if you are already immune system challenged or have to travel. Call us for same day appointments.”
- In posts on February 17, you post an article titled, “Couple diagnosed with Coronavirus Flew on Delta and Hawaiian Airlines Planes Companies Say,” and state on Facebook (with a similar statement on Instagram): “This is frightening. I am recommending high dose IV vitamin C to all my patients who are traveling, those who are around large groups of people and those with any exposure who have recently come from China...Call us to schedule your immune boost today.”
- In posts on February 20, you post an article titled, “Early Large Dose Intravenous Vitamin C is the Treatment of Choice for 2019-nCov Pneumonia,” and state: “Early high dose IV Vitamin C is being used and found to be the only effective treatment to fight the coronavirus aka Covid-19, which just shows the incredible power of Vitamin C. I am recommending an IV booster to my patients to build of [sic] their immune system. Our best defense is always to be prepared with a good offense and that is getting IV vitamin C boosters...Call us to get your vitamin C IV today.” In similar posts on the same day you state: “IV VITAMIN C IS THE ONLY KNOWN EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR CORONAVIRUS.”
- In posts on February 25, you post an article titled, “CDC warns Americans of ‘significant disruption’ from coronavirus,” and state on Instagram (with a similar statement on Facebook): “CDC says it’s time to get prepared. Boost your immune system...If you have to travel or be around large groups, come in for a vitamin C IV for an immune system supercharge. IV vitamin C is the only effective treatment method being used in China...”
- In posts on March 5, you state: “Hey! Did you know? Vitamin C IV is being used in China as the only known effective treatment for Coronavirus...Vitamin C IV kills bad bugs and Coronavirus can not escape the power of Vit C...China is importing Vit C by the ton, like 50 tons!...For those that have to travel, be in large groups, or have exposure to people who are sick, we recommend a[] vitamin C high dose IV to super boost your immune system. Same day appointments available.”
- In posts on March 12, you post an article about Vitamin C and coronavirus and state: “...no one is saying [Vitamin C] ‘cures’ coronavirus. The doctors in China have found it [to] be extremely effective in helping seriously affected patients recover...If you are immune compromised, have to travel, be around large groups, we recommend coming in for a high dose vitamin C IV...”

- In posts on March 17, you post an article titled, “There Are No Approved Products to Prevent, Treat, or Cure New Coronavirus: FDA Head,” and state: “Another misleading headline...there are always ways to prevent and treat it...To treat the coronavirus, high dose IV vitamin C has been shown to be very effective... If you are sick, call us... for a phone appointment and let’s develop a treatment plan.”
- In similar posts on March 26, you post an article on Facebook titled, “New York hospitals are using vitamin C to treat some coronavirus patients” and an article on Instagram titled, “New York hospitals treating coronavirus patients with vitamin c,” and state in both posts: “Exactly what we have been saying all along. China found it effective and imported it by the ton to treat patients. We have IV vitamin C supplies and encourage our patients to use it to boost their immune system, especially if they are immune compromised or have to be out of quarantine because they perform an ‘essential service.’ Call us to schedule your infusion today.”
- In posts on April 2, you state: “DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST COVID 19[.] BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM WITH A HIGH DOSE VIT C IV...When given intravenously, high levels of vitamin C in the blood generate the production of hydrogen peroxide, a proven killer of viruses...First Responders are the heroes in the COVID 19 battle...We want to support all of you with immune boosting high dose IV vitamin C’s with special savings. We offer same day appointments and we can get you in and out within an hour. The power of vitamin c can not be denied. It has been used to treat COVID both in China and the US successfully. Give us a call today.”
- In posts on April 7, you state: “CONTROL WHAT YOU CAN...To further boost your immune system, we are offering high dose IV vitamin C which has been found to be extremely effective for treating COVID all around the world. First responders, healthcare workers and other essential workers should definitely consider being proactive and getting a high dose Vitamin C IV to protect themselves. Same day appointments available. Call us today.”
- In posts on April 20, you state: “Get your vitamin C IV...This is an excellent way to boost your immune system to fight not only COVID 19 but all illnesses and disease. Same day appointments avail. Call us today.”
- On your social media website at <https://www.instagram.com/drgonzalezmd/>:
 - In a post on January 26, you post an article titled, “California’s first case of new coronavirus strain is confirmed in Orange County,” and state: “Reports from China are extremely concerning...While I don’t think you should unnecessarily worry, the best thing you can do to fight this virus and any other is to have a strong immune system. I highly recommend IV Vitamin C to get an instant

supercharged boost to your immune system. We have same day appointments. Protect yourself and call us.”

- In a post on March 30, you post an image of an article titled, “FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization of 2 Anti-Malaria Drugs to Treat [Coronavirus],” and state: “The better news is that other options are still available such as vitamin C...consider a vitamin C IV to superboost your immune system. Protect yourself as well as others.”
- On your social media website at <https://www.facebook.com/drgonzalezmd/>:
 - In post on February 27, you post a video about coronavirus and state: “...for those with a need to travel or be around large groups of people...come in to the office for a high dose Vitamin C IV.”

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 *et seq.*, to advertise that a product or service can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence, including, when appropriate, well-controlled human clinical studies, substantiating that the claims are true at the time they are made. For COVID-19, no such study is currently known to exist for the product or service identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such product or service are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims.

You are also advised to review all other claims for your products and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Within 48 hours, please send a message to Richard Cleland, Assistant Director via electronic mail at rcleland@ftc.gov describing the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC’s concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Richard Cleland at 202-326-3088.

Very truly yours,

Richard A. Quaresima
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices