



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

Office of the Secretary

January 9, 2012

Kevin J. Arquit, Esq.  
Jennifer Rie, Esq.  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP  
425 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

RE: *Austin Cardiology, FTC File No. 101-0040*

Dear Mr. Arquit and Ms. Rie:

The Federal Trade Commission's Western Region Office has been conducting a nonpublic investigation to determine whether HCA's acquisition of cardiology practices in Austin may violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act or Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Upon further review of this matter, it now appears that no further action is warranted by the Commission at this time. Accordingly, the investigation has been closed. This action is not to be construed as a determination that a violation may not have occurred, just as the pendency of an investigation should not be construed as a determination that a violation has occurred. The Commission reserves the right to take such further action as the public interest may require.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark  
Secretary