



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

Serena Viswanathan
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices

November 30, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO drboneceo@advancedrehabandmedical.com

Dr. Shannon Bone, D.C.

Dr. Mark Fowler

45 Urgent Care, P.C.

147 North Star Dr.

Jackson, TN 38305

Advanced Rehab and Medical, P.C.

149 North Star Dr.

Jackson, TN 38305

Re: Unsubstantiated claims for Coronavirus prevention or treatment

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your websites at <https://www.45urgentcare.com> and <https://www.advancedrehabjackson.com/> in November 2020.

We also reviewed your social media websites at

<https://www.facebook.com/45urgentcarejackson>,

<https://www.facebook.com/ADVANCEDREHABJACKSON>,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj7yBux5PUgognuo8oUwI1w>, and

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDzB0LC_XW-LrqabvPfNSWQ where you promote products and services available through your websites and at 45 Urgent Care, including Thymosin Alpha 1 and supplements. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products or services prevent or treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus prevention or treatment claims include:

- On a page on your website titled “THYMOSIN ALPHA-1 AND COVID-19,” you state:

“Thymosin Alpha-1 is a peptide chain that is made by the body. Its purpose is to help regulate the immune system by augmenting the function of the cells that fight off infections. Studies have shown that Thymosin Alpha-1 helps fight off viruses, bacteria, and fungal infections. It also modulates the immune system to fight cancer cells, make vaccines more effective, and kill cells that are unhealthy and are no longer useful to the body.

This peptide can be produced in a compounding pharmacy and used as natural therapy to enhance our immunity and prevent infections. The peptide is FDA approved and is injected into the fat under the skin twice a week for prevention, or more frequently for an active infection. Because the compounded version of this peptide is identical to that made by the body, there are few, if any, side effects.

45 Urgent Care is introducing a new service that includes the use of Thymosin Alpha-1 as both a preventive measure and a treatment for viral infections. We are currently prescribing it to treat patients who are COVID-19 positive because of its known effectiveness against viruses.

If you are interested in learning more about this treatment and how it might enhance your health, call 731-868-4609 today for an appointment! We are open Monday through Saturday 8am to 8pm. You can also schedule online at www.45urgentcare.com”

[<https://www.45urgentcare.com/2020/05/13/thymosin-alpha-1-and-covid-19/>; these statements were also included in a May 11, 2020 Facebook post at <https://www.facebook.com/45urgentcarejackson>, which was then reposted to <https://www.facebook.com/ADVANCEDREHABJACKSON> on May 12, 2020]

- In a Facebook post dated September 11, 2020 you state: “‘Underlying Health Conditions and COVID-19’ New research from the CDC shows 94% of COVID-19 deaths occur in those with underlying health conditions (<https://rb.gy/utzxp3>). In this topic of the week Lisa Medlin DNP, APRN, FNP-C at 45 Urgent Care in Jackson, TN helps to clarify exactly what this means. ‘Immune Support [sic]--- <https://youtu.be/rkEOwB2QBzU> [link to video shared in September 3, 2020 Facebook post, described below]’ Want more topics...be sure to follow us on Facebook and YouTube. Want more info? Give us a call at 731-554-0571 or go to www.45urgentcare.com”

The post includes a video, also posted on the 45 Urgent Care YouTube channel, of Lisa Medlin who states: “I just wanted to talk to you today about an article that I came across last night... put out by CDC and they are now saying that 94% of COVID deaths are from people who also have underlying conditions.... [T]hey are already at a disadvantage because they have other underlying health conditions that makes the COVID worse and causes the COVID to cause more inflammation. It

attacks the heart, it attacks the lungs, whatever it does that causes the death.... If you have an underlying condition such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, then you are at a really really high risk for having severe issues with COVID-19 and could possibly die from that. So if you are one of those people, please, please take your immune support that I made a video on . . .”

[September 11, 2020 post at <https://www.facebook.com/45urgentcarejackson>; video also posted on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNDCeR68aZA>]

- In a Facebook post dated September 3, 2020 you state: “‘Immune Support’ With the upcoming flu season closing in on us and the continued positive daily cases of COVID-19, Lisa Medlin DNP, APRN, FNP-C at 45 Urgent Care in Jackson, TN discusses immune support products that can help to boost your immune system thus fighting off those nasty viruses. Want more topics...be sure to follow us on Facebook and YouTube. Want more info? Give us a call at 731-554-0571 or go to www.45urgentcare.com[.]”

The post includes a video, also posted on YouTube, of Lisa Medlin who states: “Hey, it’s Lisa from 45 Urgent Care. Just wanted to take a quick moment to talk about our Immune Support and what we’re doing during the Covid crisis and coming upon flu season to help boost the immune system so that your body can fight back if you are to come in contact with the viruses or bacteria for that matter. We do have a packet in our office that has been set up with this in mind. It has four items in it. The first one is Immunitone . . . it has got Echinacea, green tea, elderberry in it as well as some more stuff that helps support the immune system. The ImmunoBerry liquid . . . it has obviously elderberry and a root from China that actually helps to increase antibody response and activate CD4 counts which is a really important piece of our immune system response when we are fighting antibodies and bacteria. Also has wild black cherry bark in it that has an antioxidant effect so that it decreases inflammation as we fight our viruses, bacteria, whatever happens to be foreign in our system. The next one is zinc – we’ve heard a lot in the news about zinc. Zinc is actually being used as part of a treatment plan for people with Covid-19 but what it does is it increases the immunity by strengthening the walls of the cells so that viruses can’t just get into those cells and infiltrate and cause a disease process. So everybody needs to be taking zinc. The fourth one and the last one is Monolaurin-Avail it has a lot of different things in it. It has antiviral properties as well as it can act as a natural form of an antibiotic without causing antibody resistance with the bacteria or the virus that you are trying to fight. This also contains vitamin C which is an important part of the immune system. All of these together is \$125. . . not a bad price to stay healthy this season, come by and ask for our immune support packet.”

[September 3, 2020 post at <https://www.facebook.com/45urgentcarejackson>; video also posted on the 45 Urgent Care YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkEOwB2QBzU>]

- In a Facebook post on June 2, 2020 you repost a June 2, 2020 Facebook post from Lisa Kay Medlin that states: “Please tune in to 93.1 FM to here [sic] about an exciting new therapy that we are offering [sic] at 45 Urgent Care in Jackson, TN! Thymosin Alpha-1 is an immune booster that increases your body’s sensitivity to viruses and bacteria and activate your defense mechanisms before you even know you are sick. This can be used to treat or to prevent infections such as COVID-19, flu, common cold, and bacterial infections!”

[June 2, 2020 post at <https://www.facebook.com/ADVANCEDREHABJACKSON>]

- In a Facebook post dated April 9, 2020 you state: “What else can you do to avoid the COVID-19 Virus? There is one compound in particular...that has quite a bit of research over many decades...that has the potential to help you quite a bit. This compound is Vitamin C. This easy, fast and inexpensive therapy is something everyone who wants to optimize health and help fight off infections and viruses should look into. The down side is nothing. The potential upside is your health. Want more info, give us a call at 731-664-6998 or go to www.advancedrehabjackson.com Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel and like us on Facebook.”

The post includes a video clip, also posted on YouTube, of Dr. Bone who states: “... we’re continuing to talk about how, what we can do besides the social distancing and washing our hands and using masks and doing all the things, wiping surfaces down to avoid the Covid-19 virus . . . we’ve got information about our nutraceuticals that you can get, come into the office and get huge discounts or order online. Lastly, what’s working up in New York for a lot of patients they are doing intravenous vitamin C, we do wellness intravenous vitamin C infusions here, they’re done IV, intravenous, also the Myers cocktail. If you want information about this go ahead and call us at 664-6998 or you can email us... we’ll get you the information that you need. We need to be taking care of ourselves, we can do more than just social distance. . .”

[April 9, 2020 post at <https://www.facebook.com/ADVANCEDREHABJACKSON>; reposted on April 9, 2020 at <https://www.facebook.com/45urgentcarejackson>; video also posted on the Advanced Rehab and Medical YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSCGwFsmvCM> where it is titled “The Importance of Vitamin C with COVID-19,” and the video description states: “What else can you do to avoid the COVID-19 Virus? There is one compound in particular...that has quite a bit of research over many decades...that has the potential to help you quite a bit. This compound is Vitamin C. This easy, fast and inexpensive therapy is something everyone who wants to optimize health and help fight off infections and viruses should look into. The down side is nothing. The potential upside is your health. Want more info, give us a call at 731-664-6998 or go to www.advancedrehabjackson.com”]

- In a Facebook post on March 23, 2020 you state: “As we are all focusing on social distancing, washing hands, cleaning surfaces, and using masks and precautions to mitigate the speed at which the virus spreads,I [sic] have been thinking about ways for us to improve our health and well being so that our body can maintain homeostasis and be at its best if we do come in contact with someone with COVID-19 so that maybe we dont [sic] catch it or if we do catch the virus that our body is in an optimum state of health. Many of my friends and our patients have asked me what am I doing personally? So here goes: . . . Supplements - and lots of them (Multi-Vitamin, Immunitone Plus {Elderberry, Echiniacea [sic], Medicinal Mushrooms} Amino Acids (L-Arginine and L-Citrulline for Nitric Oxide Production), Seaxym™ is a pure source of Seaprose S™ (crystalline form), a systemic enzyme that accelerates and supports healthy respiratory and sinus function, CBD oil, Tumeric, Omega 3 Krill Oil, Vit D, Vit C . . . Ill [sic] leave the link to our online store where you can have supplements drop shipped to your house if you would like. . . . Here is the link: <https://wellnessshop.ehealthpro.com/>”

[March 23, 2020 post at

<https://www.facebook.com/ADVANCEDREHABJACKSON>]

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 products or services identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such products or services 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 services 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,

Serena Viswanathan
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices