



United States of America
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
Southwest Region

Dama J. Brown, Regional Director
Federal Trade Commission – Southwest Region
1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2150
Dallas, Texas 75201

April 29, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO info@mcdonaghmed.com

McDonagh Medical Center
2800 Northeast Kendallwood Parkway, Suite A
Gladstone, Missouri 64119

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://mcdonaghmed.com> on April 23, 2020. We also reviewed your social media page at <https://www.facebook.com/mcdonaghmed>, where you direct consumers to call or email to schedule an appointment to receive IV treatments of high dose vitamin C and other nutrients, ozone therapy, ultraviolet blood therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and other treatments and products. Based upon our review, 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 on your website and social media page include:

- In an April 12, 2020 Facebook post, you claim: “Exciting news coming out of China! IV ascorbic acid (vitamin C) is being studied in Wuhan University’s Zhongnan Hospital in a prospective study on COVID patients. The experimental group will receive 24 grams of vitamin C IV in divided doses daily over 7 days. Fred Klenner, MD was not shy about using 40-50 grams/day or more, but this is significantly more than NY hospitals have been using during this pandemic (1.5 grams IV 3 times daily). Still, this is encouraging news!... McDonagh Medical Center offers Vitamin C IV, among many other modalities. Call or e-mail to ask questions or set up an appointment!”

- In an April 2, 2020 Facebook post, you claim: “Oxidative treatments, such as ozone and UV light therapies, are logical and overall safe approaches to treating the COVID-19 pandemic. This virus’ design makes it susceptible to oxidative treatments. McDonagh Medical Center offers these treatments and more, including high dose IV vitamin C. We are the only clinic in the state of MO as well as the greater Kansas City Metro area with the hyperbaric ozone machine Dr Rowen uses (and refers to in his journal article)...” In this post, you shared an article titled, “A Plausible Penny Costing Effective Treatment for Corona Virus – Ozone Therapy.”
- In a March 31, 2020 Facebook post, you claim: “McDonagh Medical Center is open and will remain open to serve our patients and the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are equipped to deal with difficult illnesses and resistant infections with regards to both prevention and treatment. We have oxygen therapies, including hyperbaric oxygen (HBOT), that treat difficult/resistant infections....
- In a March 13, 2020 Facebook post, you claim: “COVID-19 update: McDonagh Medical Center offers many anti-viral modalities including IV ozone therapy, ultraviolet blood therapy, high dose IV vitamin C, and hyperbaric oxygen. Dr Wennerstrom was trained by Robert Rowen, MD in ozone therapies, the author of this 2 min video and of multiple ozone specific journal publications. Watch ‘A Real Remedy for the Coronavirus Panic’ on YouTube....” The video you shared states that ozone “oxidizes [the coronavirus] and renders it inactive.”
- On the landing page of your website, under the heading “A Real Remedy for Coronavirus Panic” you imbed a YouTube video with an image displaying the text “Ozone treatment for Covid-19? BREAKING NEWS.” In this video, Dr. Robert Rowen states that ozone “oxidizes [the coronavirus] and renders it inactive.... There is a treatment [for coronavirus]... Please don’t live in fear, there is an answer. I am 100% certain.”

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 or services and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

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Within 48 hours, please send a message to Assistant Director Jim Elliott via electronic mail at jelliott@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 Reid Tepfer at rtepfer@ftc.gov.

Very truly yours,

Dama J. Brown
Regional Director, Southwest Region
Federal Trade Commission