

ADVOCACY UPDATE



Naturopathic Physicians:
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Working Together to Defend NAC AANP and Coalition to Protect NAC Submit Comments to FDA

Jan 26, 2022

In 2021, the FDA adopted a position that federal law prohibited manufacturers from marketing products containing N-acetyl-L-cysteine (NAC) as dietary supplements.

The AANP has been working with industry leaders on a NAC Working Group to protect the status of NAC and reverse the FDA's position.

What's happening?

Last year, FDA claimed that NAC could not be lawfully marketed as a dietary supplement because the ingredient was approved as an inhaled drug in 1963. This resulted in several manufacturers removing NAC from their product formulations, and Amazon removing it for sale on its platform.

In response, industry groups, such as Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN) and United Natural Products Alliance (UNPA), filed Citizen Petitions supported by the AANP and other organizations, urging them to reconsider their position. The FDA recently announced that they are pausing to review information and to request additional comments from the public on the safety and past use of NAC. This was a small but important victory.

How is the AANP helping?

At the end of last year, FDA put out a request for information on NAC, and the AANP called upon naturopathic doctors to share their clinical experience with NAC, including how they used NAC dating back to before DSHEA was passed into law, to help provide the perspective of physicians on safety and use of NAC.

Thank you to all of the doctors who stepped up and shared their story. These testimonials have been used to craft a letter from the AANP to the FDA that outlined the regulatory history, clinical use, and safety of NAC, which has in turn provided further evidence that our industry partners are using to submit their own comments on behalf of the supplement industry.

A special thanks to a longtime naturopathic champion, Michael Levin, for the countless hours spent researching NAC's history and helping to develop AANP's comments.
To read AANP's full submission on NAC please [click here](#).