



May 6, 2013:

MRA Applauds FDA's Proposal to Reclassify Tanning Beds

Today the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released draft regulations that would require tanning beds and sunlamps to display stronger warning labels, including a recommendation that people under the age of 18 abstain from using the devices. The proposed reclassification moves tanning beds and sunlamps from Class 1 (low risk) to Class 2 (moderate risk) devices.

"This reclassification is a long-awaited, welcome and very important step to protecting everyone, especially young people, from the dangers of tanning beds," said Wendy Selig, President and CEO of the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA). "While this is a great first step, we look forward to continuing our work with the Administration to restrict the use of these dangerous devices as an important element of the strategy to defeat melanoma."

Melanoma is the number one new cancer diagnosed in young adults. Recent studies have attributed this trend to the use of tanning beds among this age group, particularly young women. It is estimated that melanoma risk is increased by 75% when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age. As the leading private funder of melanoma research aimed at eliminating suffering and death from this deadly skin cancer, MRA is a strong proponent of banning indoor tanning beds for minors and views the proposed reclassification as an important first step in this process.

MRA is grateful to the FDA for taking today's important step and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to protect people from the dangers of UV exposure.