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ALLEGED BAN BY F.D.A. ON USE OF FLUORIDE COMPOUNDS

BY PREGNANT WOMEN

The policy of the Food and Drug Administration, first announced in October, 1966, does not forbid fluoride preparations to pregnant women.* It does forbid selling such preparations with representations, advertising, or labeling showing claims that such preparations taken during pregnancy will prevent dental caries in the offspring. The Administration has judged that there is insufficient evidence to support such a claim. There is no question of any adverse effect on the mother or child. Procedures for obtaining authorization for further use of such preparations in clinical studies are also presented, indicating that there is not a "ban" on ingestion -- only on commercial sale with claims of benefit.

The inadequacy of evidence of the usefulness of prenatal fluoride preparations does not in any way detract from the proven effectiveness of childhood consumption of optimally fluoridated water in providing a lifetime of better dental health through reduction of tooth decay.

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*U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Commissioner): "Oral prenatal drugs containing fluorides for human use," Federal Register, Volume 32, No. 55, March 22, 1967 (Title 21, chapter 1, subchapter A, part 3).