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June 20, 2017

Attention: Grace A. Owen, Sc.D.
Academy of Audiology of Puerto Rico
San Juan, Puerto Rico

In reply to: Starkey Hearing Technologies Position on Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

Dear Mrs. Owen,

Starkey Hearing Technologies believes that if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) creates an Over-the-Counter (OTC) hearing aid category, such medical devices should meet the same FDA standards as existing hearing aids and should be offered only to people with mild hearing loss.

Starkey Hearing Technologies Senior Vice President Brandon Sawalich, noted: "If the quality of a new category of OTC hearing devices is safeguarded, and the products are marketed only to people with mild hearing loss, consumers who try the new OTC devices may have a positive experience and potentially seek further treatment if their hearing loss progresses." He added: "But if the quality of OTC hearing products is not ensured, consumers may abandon their effort to address hearing loss altogether, putting them at increased risk of long-term complications of untreated hearing loss."

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trish Muñoz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Trish Muñoz
Director of Latin American Operations
Starkey Hearing Technologies

