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# Vitamin D qualified cancer health claim submission being readied

By Shane Starling, 20-Jan-2011

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**A vitamin D qualified health claim will soon be submitted to the Food and Drug Administration even as concerns grow about the recent vitamin D scientific update issued by the Institute of Medicine (IOM).**

The Alliance for Natural Health-USA (ANH-USA) announced this week that it was on the verge of submitting a dossier under the qualified health claims system.

It has enlisted Jonathan Emord, the attorney the group worked in a 2010 court case that saw qualified selenium health claims altered, and who has been involved in several other cases including Pearson v Shalala in 1999 which was influential in the qualified health claims system being established in the first place.

The claims are likely to link vitamin D consumption with reduced rates of certain types of cancer, and reference more than 6000 studies that appear in the scientific literature.

*"Alliance for Natural Health is having scientific experts evaluate the evidence, presently,"* Emord told NutraIngredients-USA.com.

*"If the scientists deem the evidence credible in support of Vitamin D/Cancer risk reductions, then appropriate claims will be created and a petition will be filed. Based on some 6,000 published peer reviewed articles on the association, we fully expect that the scientific evaluation will find a credible basis for one or more Vitamin D site specific cancer risk reduction claims."*

### **IOM on vitamin D**

But in making its announcement the ANH-USA pointed to issues it has with the recent IOM report on Vitamin D, which it said had set, *"ridiculously low daily vitamin D allowances for most people."*

The group publicized comments made by Dr Walt Willett, along with *Professor Heike A. Bischoff-Ferrari, the director of the Centre on Aging and Mobility at the University of Zurich, which were also critical of the IOM's recommendations.*

The comments, which can be found [here](#) , were published by the Harvard School of Public Health, and highlight incongruity between the vitamin D levels in the randomized controlled trials (RCTs) studied by the IOM and the body's final recommendations.

*"In support of a greater safety margin in research and supplementation strategies, the IOM doubled the safe upper limit from 2,000IU to 4,000IU of vitamin D per day, which is appropriate,"* the two academics wrote.

The ANH-USA said the IOM vitamin D daily dosage was too low to prevent the risk of bone fractures.

*"The IOM's report was based almost solely on the effect of vitamin D on bone health; other health benefits were largely ignored. Now Dr Willett says they didn't even get the bone science right."*

In 2008, vitamin D was added to the calcium-osteoporosis unqualified health claim.

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