



Our Mission

To improve the care of patients by promoting research, education, and optimal health care policies and standards.

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January, 26, 2023

The Honorable Katherine C. Tai
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW

Dear Ambassador Tai:

The Heart Rhythm Society in pursuit of our vision to end death and suffering due to heart rhythm disorders is dedicated to the continuous advancement of care available to patients. We are writing in response to the recent decision by the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to issue an exclusion order banning importation into the United States of models of the Apple Watch with ECG App. As the ongoing legal dispute between Apple and AliveCor continues, the Heart Rhythm Society maintains a neutral position on the merit of either company's legal arguments but urge the ITC to consider pathways to resolution other than limiting patient access to the technology. We believe it is important to have more tools, not fewer, available to help identify cardiac conditions and that access to wearable consumer cardiac monitoring technology has been a significant development in improving the diagnosis and treatment of heart rhythm disorders.

Wearable Cardiac Monitors Technology Benefits:

- Wearable cardiac monitoring technologies with irregular rhythm notification and high and low heart rate notifications provide significant benefit to consumers in alerting them to potential cardiac conditions.
- The alerts provided by wearable medical devices have led users to seek health care, facilitating detection and diagnosis of atrial fibrillation and other cardiovascular conditions.

The technology has become a valuable tool for many patients and their healthcare providers to have in their toolbox to help diagnose, monitor and treat many cardiac conditions.

In summary, we think that public access to cardiac health monitoring technology is very important for our patients and for ongoing research. We acknowledge the business right to protect intellectual property and urge the ITC to consider means of resolving the issue that does not negatively impact consumer access to their cardiac data and the collection of public data for research.

Sincerely,

Andrew D. Krahn, MD, FHRS
President, Heart Rhythm Society