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INFORMATION CIRCULAR FOR PHARMACISTS IN TASMANIA

1. Changes to the Tasmanian Poisons List

Consistent with the recommendations of the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee, a number of amendments have been made to the Tasmanian Poisons List that take effect from the 10th May 2006. Changes made this round have been minor. The consolidated Poisons List is available on the website www.thelaw.tas.gov.au

1.1 Schedule 2- Amendment

PHENYLEPHRINE except:

- (a) when included in Schedule 4
- (b) in oral preparations containing 50mg or less of phenylephrine per recommended daily dose in packs containing 250mg or less of phenylephrine
- (c) in topical eye or nasal preparations containing 1 per cent or less of phenylephrine

***Background:** The amendment is only in respect of clause(b) which previously read “in oral preparations containing 0.5% or less of phenylephrine”. The earlier clause had been in place for over 30 years. The new entry, whilst allowing the continued general sale of phenylephrine, imposes limits on the recommended maximum daily dose and the total amount contained in a pack. The scheduling exception was supported by the safety record of phenylephrine which was demonstrated in part by the lengthy marketing experience as a general sale item in the UK.*

1.2 Schedule 3- Amendment

PROCHLORPERAZINE in divided preparations in packs containing not more than 10 dosage units for the treatment of nausea associated with migraine.

***Background:** The limitation in the previous entry to buccal use has been removed. The committee was of the view that there was no significant safety difference between buccal and oral routes of administration.*

2. Other important information for pharmacists

2.1. Supply of retinoids (acitretin and isotretinoin) under Poisons Regulation 69

Pharmacists are reminded that acitretin and isotretinoin can only be dispensed on the prescription of authorised prescribers, most being specialist dermatologists. The prescribers have been issued with a state authorisation number and have been asked to include the number on each prescription (eg R69/RW04- the RW represents the prescriber's initials). In the case that an interstate prescription is presented it can only be dispensed if written by a specialist dermatologist. Please contact this Branch if you have any queries.

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