



**DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH
and HUMAN SERVICES**

*Community, Population & Rural Health
Population Health*

16 March 2004

Circular to: Pharmacists in Charge, Pharmacies in Tasmania

Supply of Pseudoephedrine Products

The demand for pseudoephedrine for illicit use continues unabated. Reports from medical practitioners, Tasmania Police and interstate health agencies indicate that some people are attempting to purchase a wide range of pseudoephedrine products both for (profitable) on-sale to manufacturers of illicit psychostimulants and for their own personal non-medical use.

Consideration is being given at a national level to rescheduling combination pseudoephedrine/antihistamine products to schedule 3. Until this proposal is formally resolved, **pharmacists are requested to treat all pseudoephedrine/antihistamine products as schedule 3 items. That is, they should be stored in the dispensary and the pharmacist should participate in each supply.**

Unfortunately, pseudoephedrine diversion is likely to be a continuing problem. Consistent with other forms of drug seeking, regular refusal does not seem to discourage pseudoephedrine seekers from trying at the next pharmacy or even at the same pharmacy later. However, it is important that requests continue to be refused where there is reasonable suspicion of potential misuse or abuse. This applies especially to people who are known to your pharmacy to have a history of drug misuse.

Tasmania Police are particularly grateful for reports received from pharmacies via the Crime-stopper hotline about suspicious pseudoephedrine requests. They have asked for your continued support.

CRIME-STOPPERS HOTLINE : 1800 005 555

JOHN GALLOWAY
CHIEF PHARMACIST