

28th November 2000

Newsletter No. 15

INFORMATION CIRCULAR FOR PHARMACISTS IN TASMANIA

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 which take effect from the 1st December 2000. Below are detailed the more notable changes.

Schedule 2-New Entries

AZELASTINE in preparations for nasal use.

Background: Azelastine is a new antihistamine on the Australian market. Please note that as with levocabastine (Livostin) it has a B3 Category listing and is not recommended for use in pregnancy.

SQUILL **except** in preparations containing 1 per cent or less of squill.

THIABENDAZOLE for human therapeutic use.

Schedule 2 Amendments

CODEINE when labelled with a recommended daily dose not exceeding 60mg of codeine and-

- (a) Compounded with a single non-opiate analgesic substance in tablets or capsules each containing 10mg or less of codeine when-
 - (i) packed in blister or strip packaging or in a container with a child-resistant closure; and
 - (ii) in a primary pack containing 25 or less dosage units;or
- (b) compounded with a single non-opiate analgesic substance in individually wrapped powders each containing 10mg or less of codeine when in a primary pack containing 25 or less dosage units;or
- (c) compounded with one or more other therapeutically active substances other than an antihistamine-
 - (i) in divided preparations each containing 10mg or less of codeine; or
 - (ii) in undivided preparations containing 0.25% or less of codeine.

Background: The above entry has been amended to accommodate combined NSAID/codeine products and to also accommodate products with a recommended maximum daily dose of 60mg. In the superseded entry the maximum recommended dose was specified as not exceeding 15mg of codeine (as a single dose rather than a daily dose). Similarly the Schedule 3 entry has been amended- see next page. The scheduling of "Panadeine type" products has not changed.

CREOSOTE for human therapeutic use except in preparations containing 10 per cent or less of creosote.

IBUPROFEN

- (a) in preparations for oral use when labelled with a recommended daily dose of not more than 1200mg of ibuprofen:

- (i) in divided preparations in packs of 100 or less dosage units each containing 200mg or less of ibuprofen; or
- (ii) in liquid preparations when sold in the manufacturer's original pack each containing 4 grams or less of ibuprofen; or

(b) in preparations for external use.

Background: *This entry has been amended to accommodate some higher strength oral liquid preparations with total pack content still restricted.*

PIROXICAM in preparations for dermal use has been deleted from this schedule and has moved to unscheduled.

Schedule 3- New Entries

MACROGOL 3350 in preparations for oral use for bowel cleansing purposes.

Please observe the same provision arrangements to those that apply to Sodium phosphate (Fleet phospho-soda). Patients should receive counselling at the time of purchase and purchase should only be on the advice of a medical practitioner.

Schedule 3- Amendment

CODEINE when compounded with a single non-opiate analgesic substance in divided preparations containing 10mg or less of codeine per dosage unit and with a recommended daily dose not exceeding 60mg of codeine, except when included in Schedule 2.

Schedule 4- New Entries

AZELASTINE except when included in Schedule 2.

INSULINS

Background: *This change is a result of medical representations regarding concerns of misuse by sportspeople for body building purposes. Several insulin related deaths have been reported amongst bodybuilders in Australia. Diabetes Australia has supported the rescheduling. Emergency supply provisions are still applicable in Tasmania.*

PHENOLPHTHALEIN for human therapeutic use.

Background: *A recent meta-analysis has indicated an association between phenolphthalein and colorectal cancer. There is wide international acceptance of the view that it is inappropriate as an OTC and the TGA's Medicines Evaluation Committee has recommended that it no longer be available for purchase without a prescription. (Please note that Medislim tablets and capsules are now Schedule 4.)*

Any queries about items on the circular can be directed to 6233 2064.

Please ensure that this circular is brought to the attention of all pharmacists employed in your pharmacy.