

Newsletter No. 14

15th September 2000

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 from the 1st September 2000. Below are detailed the more notable changes. Most of these amendments were notified in our circular to pharmacies dated 23rd August.

Schedule 2 Amendments

PSEUDOEPHEDRINE in preparations (other than preparations for stimulant, appetite suppression or weight-control purposes), with a recommended daily dose of 240mg or less of pseudoephedrine:

- (a) In undivided preparations (liquids) containing 60mg or less of pseudoephedrine per recommended dose;
- (b) When the only therapeutically active substance in divided preparations (tablets and capsules) containing 60mg or less of pseudoephedrine per recommended dose in a pack containing 30 or less dosage units;
- (c) When compounded with other therapeutically active substances; or
- (d) In slow release preparations.

Please note that the effect of the above amendment is that pseudoephedrine (except in liquid, compounded or slow release preparations) in packs of greater than 30 doses is in Schedule 4 from the 1st September.

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

Schedule 3- New Entries

ALCLOMETASONE in preparations for dermal use containing 0.05% or less of alclometasone in packs containing 30g or less of such preparations.

FLURBIPROFEN in divided preparations for topical oral use containing 10mg or less of flurbiprofen per dosage unit (an application for a lozenge product has been submitted).

TRANEXAMIC ACID for the treatment of menorrhagia.

Schedule 4- New Entries

ANAGRELIDE- Agrylin Capsules® from Orphan Australia containing anagrelide 0.5mg and 1mg , for the treatment of essential thrombocytopenia.

ROFECOXIB- Vioxx Tablets and Oral Suspension® from M.S.D. containing rofecoxib 12.5mg and 25mg and 12.5mg/5ml and 25mg/5ml, respectively, for the symptomatic treatment of osteoarthritis.

Other Changes

Modifast

Note that after a formulation change and labelling addition Modifast has moved to unscheduled. Before sale as an unscheduled item please confirm that your stock complies with the following:

- (a) The recommended dose per day of Selenium (in the inorganic form as sodium selenite) does not exceed 52mcg
- (b) The label includes the warnings:
 - 1. The recommended adult daily amount of vitamin A from all sources is 2,500IU
 - 2. WARNING- Taking more than 2,500IU a day during pregnancy may cause birth defects.

Misuse of Diphenhydramine Capsules

A report of suspected misuse of diphenhydramine capsules has been made to Pharmaceutical Services Branch. It is believed that the capsule contents have been used for injection. Please treat with caution any requests for this product and refuse supply where misuse is suspected.

Regulation changes- Labelling of dispensed medicines (teratogenic, embryotoxic and embryofatal drugs)

Consistent with changes recommended by the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee, Regulation 56 (Labelling of dispensed medicines) will be amended. Gazettal date has not been finalised but is likely to be effective in the next month.

In summary the amendment states that where the following medicines are dispensed the following warnings must appear on each pack:

Drug	Warning
Levocabastine	Do not use if pregnant
Acitretin Adapalene Etretinate Isotretinoin Thalidomide Tretinoin	Please note: All warnings apply to all agents in the left column For oral use WARNING- Causes Birth Defects Do not use if pregnant. Do not become pregnant during use or within (<i>Insert number of months as per approved product information</i>) month(s) of stopping treatment. For topical use Do not use if pregnant. WARNING- May cause Birth Defects.
Leflunomide	WARNING- Causes Birth Defects Do not use if pregnant (<i>Insert brand name</i>) remains in the body for many months after treatment has stopped. Do not become pregnant or father a child before consulting your doctor.
Misoprostol	CAUTION- (Name of substance) should not be used by pregnant women.

These warnings normally appear on manufacturer's original packaging. When dispensing please ensure that they are not obscured.

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