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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 May 2003. Below are detailed the more notable changes.

1. Schedule 2- New entry

"**FLURBIPROFEN** in divided preparations for topical use containing 10mg or less of flurbiprofen per dosage unit"

***Background:** A submission was received requesting that flurbiprofen lozenges be rescheduled from Schedule 3 to Schedule 2. This was approved as post-marketing safety data demonstrated that the product has a low potential for causing adverse effects.*

2. Schedule 2– Deletion

IBUPROFEN for external use has been deleted from schedule 2 and is therefore now unscheduled.

***Background:** The committee agreed to exempt ibuprofen for external use from the requirements of scheduling on the basis of available safety data. It was noted that ibuprofen for external use was for minor ailments that were easily diagnosed and treated by consumers.*

3. Schedule 3- Amendments

BUDESONIDE in aqueous nasal sprays delivering 50 micrograms or less of budesonide per actuation when the maximum recommended daily dose is no greater than 400 micrograms and when packed in a primary pack containing 200 actuations or less, for the prophylaxis or treatment of allergic rhinitis for up to 6 months in adults and children 12 years and over.

***Background:** On the basis of the submitted post-marketing safety data the committee agreed to extend the indications for budesonide to include perennial allergic rhinitis (previously only approved for seasonal allergic rhinitis).*

MOMETASONE in aqueous nasal sprays delivering 50 micrograms or less of mometasone per actuation when the maximum recommended daily dose is no greater than 200 micrograms and when packed in a primary pack containing 200 actuations or less, for the short-term prophylaxis or treatment of allergic rhinitis for up to 6 months in adults and children 12 years and over.

Background: *On the basis of the safety data provided, which showed a good safety profile and a very low potential for adverse effects, the committee agreed to extend the indications for mometasone to include perennial allergic rhinitis (previously only approved for seasonal allergic rhinitis).*

4. Sedating antihistamines and children

From time to time the Branch receives queries regarding the provision of antihistamines for the sedation of children. Our newsletter of May 1999 provided information on this subject and below is an extract of that advice:

“All states and territories now rely on the professional discretion of pharmacists not to supply sedating antihistamines for the sedation of children. In particular the Commonwealth Medicines Evaluation Committee (MEC) advises that the treatment of children of less than two years of age with antihistamines be only undertaken following medical advice and that promethazine in particular should not be used for children less than 12 months of age. The use of antihistamines in children between 2 years of age and 11 years of age is on the advice of a doctor or pharmacist.”

5. Recall of products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

As pharmacists will appreciate, this recall is an evolving process and it is important to base the response on the most up to date information. In particular, the scale of the recall presents special difficulties. It is recommended that pharmacists regularly access the Therapeutic Goods administration’s website at www.tga.gov.au to obtain the best available information.

Please circulate to all pharmacists in your employment.

(Please note that this and other circulars are available on the DHHS website at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/pharmaceuticals/)

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