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## **Newsletter Number 18**

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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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2001. Below are detailed the more notable changes.

### **1. Schedule 2- New entries**

**AMETHOCAINE** in preparations for topical use other than eye drops, containing 10% or less of local anaesthetic substances, except in dermal preparations containing 2% or less of total local anaesthetic substances (that is less than 2% is unscheduled).

### **2. Schedule 2 Amendments**

**BENZOCAINE** in preparations for topical use other than eye drops:

- (a) containing 10% or less of total local anaesthetic substances, except in dermal preparations containing 2% or less of total local anaesthetic substances; or
- (b) in divided preparations containing 200mg or less of total local anaesthetic substances per dosage unit, except in lozenges containing 30mg or less of total local anaesthetic substances per dosage unit.

**CINCHOCAINE** in preparations for topical use other than eye drops, containing 0.5% or less of total local anaesthetic substances

**LIGNOCAINE** in preparations for topical use other than eye drops:

- (a) containing 10% or less of total local anaesthetic substances, except in dermal preparations containing 2% or less of total local anaesthetic substances; or
- (b) in divided preparations containing 200mg or less of total local anaesthetic substances per dosage unit, except in lozenges containing 30mg or less of total local anaesthetic substances per dosage unit.

**PRILOCAINE** in preparations for topical use other than eye drops, containing 10% or less of total local anaesthetic substances.

**Background:** *The NDPSC considered that a move to general sale for lower strengths of some local anaesthetic agents was warranted due to lack of reports of adverse reactions and the assessment that there was an advantage with increased availability.*

### 3. Schedule 3- New Entries

**SALICYLIC ACID** in preparations for dermal use except in preparations containing 40% or less of salicylic acid.

*Background: Salicylic acid had not previously been scheduled. Due to safety considerations very high strength products have been included in schedule 3.*

### 4. Schedule 3- Amendments

**SALBUTAMOL** as the only therapeutically active substance:

- (a) in metered aerosols delivering 100 micrograms or less of salbutamol per metered dose; or
- (b) in dry powders for inhalation delivering 200micrograms or less of salbutamol per dose.

**TERBUTALINE** as the only therapeutically active substance:

- (a) in metered aerosols delivering 250micrograms or less of terbutaline per metered dose; or
- (b) in dry powders for inhalation delivering 500micrograms or less of terbutaline per dose.

*Background: These entries for the beta-2 agonists have been amended to provide for a greater choice of dry powder delivery systems in schedule 3 (with dose limits still applicable).*

### 5. Amendments- Podophyllum resin (podophyllin) and podophyllotoxin

The new entries read:

#### Schedule 2

**PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM and EMODI (podophyllin)** in preparations containing 10 per cent or less of podophyllin for human use for the treatment of warts **except** when in Schedule 4

#### Schedule 3

**PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM and EMODI (podophyllin)** in preparations containing 20 per cent or less of podophyllin for human use for the treatment of warts **except** when in Schedule 2 or 4

*Background: The scheduling of podophyllum resin has been amended to list its use for the treatment of anogenital warts and for oral use in Schedule 4. In regards to the treatment of anogenital warts there was recognition that sexually transmitted diseases (STD) require medical assessment and management to exclude the presence of other STDs, ensure eradication of the disease and counselling in respect of hygiene and disease transmission. A similar change will be implemented for podophyllotoxin from the 1<sup>st</sup> December.*

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

Jim Galloway  
Senior Pharmacist