



## Changes to Poisons Act Schedules

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010

### TO BE USED AS A GUIDE ONLY

Please refer to the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons  
(SUSDP) No 24 Amendment No 2

#### SCHEDULE 3 – NEW ENTRIES

**Magnesium sulphate** for human therapeutic use in divided oral preparations, except when containing 1.5g or less per recommended daily dose. This cutoff means that preparations for mineral supplementation which contain magnesium sulphate should remain unscheduled.

**Rabeprazole** in oral preparations containing 10mg or less of rabeprazole for the relief of heartburn and other symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, in packs containing not more than 14 days of supply.

#### SCHEDULE 4 – NEW ENTRIES

**Doripenem** – a broad-spectrum carbapenem antibiotic in the same class as meropenem and imipenem.

**Golimumab** – a human IgG1-kappa monoclonal antibody specific for human tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF $\alpha$ ) (a cytokine protein). Indicated for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

**HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors** (including statins), except when separately specified in these schedules.

**Human Papillomavirus Vaccine** – for prevention of infection by HPV viruses and subsequent prevention of cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancers as well as prevention of genital warts.

**Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine** – Japanese encephalitis is a significant public health problem in the Indian subcontinent, southeast Asia and China. Vaccination is recommended for visitors to rural areas of Asia and Papua New Guinea where the visit is to be for more than one month and for anyone visiting these areas for periods of a year or more (Singapore excepted).

#### SCHEDULE 4 – NEW ENTRIES continued

**Lacosamide** – an antiepileptic used as adjunctive therapy in partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation.

**Liraglutide** – an analogue of human glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1). GLP-1 analogues mirror the effects of naturally produced GLP-1, which include glucose-dependent stimulation of insulin secretion, suppression of glucagon secretion, reduction of appetite and delay of food absorption. Indicated for improving glycaemic control in Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

**Prasugrel** – a thienopyridine antiplatelet drug with similar properties to clopidogrel.

**Succimer** – an orally active, heavy metal chelating agent. Used to treat lead, arsenic and mercury poisoning.

#### SCHEDULE 6 – NEW ENTRY

**Guanidine** except when in Schedule 4 or in preparations containing 1 % or less of guanidine.

Guanidine carbonate is a precursor for preparing guanidine hydroxide, the active ingredient in some chemical hair relaxing treatments which are used to permanently straighten curly hair.

The pH of these preparations can be very alkaline and a number of warnings must also be included on the label – for example: “If swallowed, do NOT induce vomiting” and “If in eyes, hold eyelids apart and flush the eye continuously with running water. Continue flushing until advised to stop by the Poisons Information Centre or a doctor, or for at least 15 minutes.”

#### The SUSDP is available online....

The SUSDP and its amendments are available online at the ComLaw FRLI website. Follow the links available from the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee (NDPSC) section of the TGA website:

[www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/susdp.htm](http://www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/susdp.htm)

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### Is a fax or a photocopy a valid prescription?

**NO!** Only the original handwritten or computer generated prescription (signed in ink by the prescriber) is valid.



Please remember **FAXES** and **PHOTOCOPIES** are simply pieces of paper which can be sent to multiple locations.

Similarly, **PBS REPEAT** prescriptions should never be dispensed without the duplicate, as the repeat authorisation form is not a valid prescription by itself. If the previous dispensing pharmacist made an error this could be repeated if the duplicate is not checked. The Department has also received reports of patients presenting the repeat authorisation form (without the duplicate) to one pharmacy for dispensing and presenting the duplicate to another pharmacy thereby obtaining extra quantities of medicines such as benzodiazepines.

### Flunitrazepam: Check for the HDWA number before dispensing!



Prescriptions for flunitrazepam cannot be dispensed unless they are endorsed with the "HDWA number" [Poisons Regulation 51GB(8)]. This number is supplied to the prescriber by the Department as part of their authorisation to prescribe flunitrazepam for a particular patient.

### Legislation on the Internet

The **Poisons Act 1964** and the **Poisons Regulations 1965** can be accessed online via the State Law Publisher website at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au). Just click on the grey bar (in the middle of the home page) entitled 'WA Legislation and Legislative Information Databases'.

### Have you completed the online C-POP training?

**All pharmacists** dispensing a pharmacotherapy after **21 April 2010** must have completed the online training, including pharmacists who have been involved in the Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy - C-POP from its inception and those recently registered in Western Australia.



The online training package for pharmacists is available at: [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au/cpop/index.htm](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au/cpop/index.htm). Pharmacists are eligible for 3 Continuing Education Points (CEP) upon completion of the training.

Please contact Joy Knight – C-POP Co-ordinator on 9388 4904 with your queries.

