



New Zealand
Self-Medication Industry
Association Inc.

MEMO

DATE: 15 February 2010

TO: Retail Pharmacists
Pharmaceutical Wholesalers

FROM: Tim Roper

SUBJECT: OTC cough/cold preparations for children

As you may be aware changes to the indications for use of these products in children has been under review during 2009. In July and August 2009 a Working Group comprising key stakeholders, under the direction of Medsafe, met to discuss whether or not a change to current contra indications for children under 2 years of age was required. After extensive discussion the advice provided to Medsafe is detailed below.

1. The group recommended that all medicines indicated for the treatment of the common cold be contraindicated for use in children **less than 6 years of age** with the exception of bromhexine and topical nasal decongestants.
2. The group recommended that a referral be made to the Medicines Classification Committee to consider the reclassification of all medicines indicated for the treatment of the common cold to a pharmacy based classification, with the exception of bromhexine and topical nasal decongestants.
3. The group recommended that a referral be made to the Medicines Classification Committee to confirm the appropriateness of the current pharmacy only classification of bromhexine and topical nasal decongestants indicated for the treatment of the common cold.
4. It was also agreed by the group that a recall of cough/cold medicines requiring updated labelling to reflect these changes **was not required** and these products should be allowed to be sold through. The date when new labelling would need to be in place would be approximately 18 months after the decision was made known, e.g. the beginning of the cough/cold season April 1st 2011.

It is important that retail pharmacists and wholesalers understand that the current packaging with labels indicating contraindications for under 2's are still saleable **until April 2011**.

Ph/Fax +64 9 235 5260 | M +64 21 992 113 | Web www.nzsmi.org.nz
Pencarrow, 203 Whiriwhiri Rd, RD2, Waiuku 2682, Auckland | PO Box 6473, Auckland, New Zealand

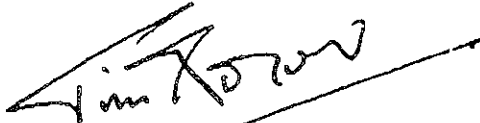
"Better health for New Zealanders through the development of responsible self-medication"

A MEMBER OF THE WORLD SELF-MEDICATION INDUSTRY

The referral to the Medicines Classification Committee means that these issues will be discussed at the next meeting of MCC scheduled for **13th April 2010**.

Submissions are required by 15 March 2010 and NZSMI and individual sponsor companies will be providing a view on whether or not these products do require reclassification.

For further information please contact Tim Roper, Executive Director, New Zealand Self-Medication Industry on (09) 235 5260 or 021 9921

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Roper', written over a diagonal line that extends from the top left towards the bottom right.

Tim Roper
Executive Director
New Zealand Self-Medication Industry