

Submission: Regulatory options for appropriate access and safety controls for alkyl nitrites

As a regular consumer of alkyl nitrites for nearly 40 years I would like to submit my own experiences with alkyl nitrite so that you can better understand that alkyl nitrite has a legitimate use and a relevant therapeutic benefit:

- I was unable to get alkyl nitrites in my home town when I became a practising homosexual. It was not until in my 20's when I visited Sydney that I was able to purchase a bottle. I had read of its use and benefits in gay media, when using the alkyl nitrites I was better able to handle the pain associated with anal receptive sex, until this time I had found anal receptive sex difficult, uncomfortable and sometimes bloody and tended to avoid this form of sex with partners
- With the alkyl nitrite I am better able to relax my sphincter allowing the penis better and easier access through my sphincter and anal canal as well as avoid bloody anal tears thus reducing the anxiety I associated with anal receptive sex
- I have tried alternatives such as numbing agents, I found these to be much less effective than alkyl nitrites, especially with anal tears
- I find its use to be self limiting, in that if I am taking a lot of alkyl nitrites during sex then my penis will deflate and it is very difficult to encourage a subsequent erection once that 'wall' has been hit and often I will need to take a break at this point
- I have accidentally spilt alkyl nitrites on my nose and suffered a mild skin irritation which clears in a few days, over the years I have worked out better handling procedures which has limited repeat spills
- I very rarely get the associated headaches and other side effects, likely as over the years I have learnt the dosing required to avoid most undesirable side effects
- There are times when I have not had the need for alkyl nitrites for many months, during this time I do not suffer from any side effects or withdrawal symptoms.

Around my twenties I did a TAFE assignment for 'How to Use Articles and Extracts in the Library', the subject I chose was alkyl nitrites, this assignment alerted me through medical journals of the day to possible serious side effects such as anaemia and other blood issues. Based on this information I have been very mindful in the use of alkyl nitrites.

When I did some research for this submission, I was alarmed to find out the recent likely relationship between isopropyl nitrite and serious vision loss and its appearance and increase after the 2007 EU decision to ban isobutyl nitrite. Especially as I was in the UK during 2014 and likely using isopropyl nitrites for a time, I feel fortunate that I was not burdened with this affliction. I have no objection for you to consider a Schedule 9 ban on isopropyl nitrite alone, which would prevent this issue of vision loss.

If you ban all alkyl nitrites I am concerned that alternatives will become available which could be far worse than alkyl nitrites such as what happened with the EU decision and more so I am scared of a situation like the synthetic LSD and marijuana that ended up causing deaths and suffering.

Currently I have a chronic disease requiring constant blood testing, I have researched and found that I should avoid alkyl nitrite use in the days leading up to a blood test as alkyl nitrite use can cause aberrations in some blood results. This is very easily managed when one has the information, therefore this information should be available to all through better packaging or an additional information leaflet or educational campaign. This is also true for the potential blood issues I mentioned earlier and any other advice which could help individuals utilise the product to facilitate anal receptive sex safely.