


September 27, 2018

**Joint Advisory Committee on Medicines and Chemicals  
Scheduling  
Therapeutic Goods Administration**



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**Re: Comment on proposed amendments to the scheduling of Naphthalene**

The NSW Poisons Information Centre (NSWPIC) provides a phone-based advice service on suspected poisonings to the public and health professionals calling from NSW, TAS and ACT on a near full-time basis and a shared after-hours service to the remainder of Australia. This results in approximately half of Australia's poisons-related calls being received by our Centre.

The NSW PIC supports the proposed amendments to the Poisons Schedule to include naphthalene in Schedule 7. Naphthalene toxicity has been well established and severe toxicity can occur from relatively small oral or inhaled exposures. Those in the population with G6PD deficiency are at particular risk, and are usually not aware of this increased individual risk.

The NSW PIC still receives calls regularly regarding exposures to naphthalene (92 calls since 2014, 32 requiring hospitalisation) as well as exposures to moth balls of an unknown content, potentially containing naphthalene (113 calls since 2014, 16 requiring hospitalisation).

Many of these calls involved loose moth balls or parts of moth balls which had escaped the caged packaging designed to prevent exposures.

With much safer alternatives now readily available as moth repellents for the general public, the risk benefit analysis of naphthalene now favours a change to Schedule 7.

Regards



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