



NSW Poisons Information Centre
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Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling
Therapeutic Goods Administration
136 Narrabundah Lane
Symonston ACT 2609

Re: Proposed amendments referred for scheduling advice to the Joint ACMS-ACCS #24

The NSW Poisons Information Centre (NSW PIC) 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.

3.1 Nicotine

The NSW PIC does not support the proposed change in scheduling to allow exemption for tobacco prepared for heating.

The NSW PIC continues to see a steady increase in calls relating to nicotine, eCigarettes and tobacco. The introduction of nicotine replacement therapies and eCigarettes has not seen a significant reduction in calls relating to exposures to tobacco, but added a new type of exposure. We would be concerned that introduction of new heated tobacco products would add further to this list.

Of the calls received by the NSW PIC relating to tobacco exposures, over 82% were accidental paediatric exposures. Heated tobacco products available internationally appear to have tobacco equivalent to 1 cigarette contained in a smaller volume within the heated tobacco unit. This would increase the risk of exposure to greater quantities of tobacco in accidental paediatric exposures. We are also concerned about accidental exposures to the used heated tobacco units, which are likely to still contain a reasonable amount of nicotine.

Calls to NSW PIC regarding Nicotine and smoking related products 2014-2019

Year	Nicotine	Tobacco	eCigarettes	Total
2014	50	182	-	202
2015	154	230	-	384
2016	156	232	-	388
2017	166	192	43	401
2018	142	189	39	370
2019	159	200	84	443

3.2 Pentobarbital

The NSW PIC supports the proposed scheduling change to pentobarbital. We continue to receive calls regarding deliberate self-poisoning (DSP) exposures to pentobarbital.

Year	DSP exposures to Pentobarbital
2014	2
2015	3
2016	1
2017	3
2018	2
2019	1

Regards

