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AMA submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration – Increased online access to ingredient information

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The AMA thanks the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the opportunity to comment on the *Increased online access to ingredient information* consultation. The AMA supports the TGA's proposal to increase the amount of publicly available information on therapeutic good ingredients through the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). This will benefit the safety and quality of therapeutic good use in Australia, and support transparency and consumer decision-making. This is especially important given the increase in the prevalence of allergies.

The AMA supports option 1A, where the names of excipients (except those used in flavour or fragrance propriety ingredient mixes) will be published. This option is more appropriate than option 1B and option 2, as more information will be available. The therapeutic good ingredients information published should at the very least match the food and cosmetics information requirements.

Ingredients even in small quantities can potentially cause adverse reactions. Researching the ingredients of therapeutic goods for patients with allergies and sensitivities takes up a doctor's, and their patient's, valuable time. Sometimes this information is available on the manufacturer's website, but the AMA believes that publishing the information on the ARTG is more reliable due to the TGA's review processes. However, the AMA has recently written to the TGA about its concerns that TGA reviews are not rigorous enough to prevent non-compliance and ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of listed medicines.

The AMA has the capacity to communicate this information to its members, who can then pass this information on to their patients as appropriate. The AMA looks forward to working further with the TGA to develop a communication strategy.

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