

Submission re Black Box labelling on chemical medical therapies.

My Name is xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

I obtained my Medical degree in 1993.

I took my first psychiatric drug as an Intern. It was Temazepam.

Despite my very recent Medical Education I didn't know the sleeping pill given to me by staff in the ED was a Benzodiazepine, I didn't know it was a depressant and within weeks I was also on an antidepressant, which made me manic.. Which I also didn't know was drug induced.

I ceased working as a Doctor after a destabilizing Psychiatric drug roller coaster which sent me into panic attacks and psychosis, in 2001. Back then my treating psychiatrist insisted I double the dose of the medication driving the intense suicidal ideation.

I know that others have been given these suicide inducing chemicals, such as SSRI's which are banned in children in US and UK for increasing suicidality and adult users get warnings. In 2004 I found the medication I was taking when suicidal Effexor, was forced by the FDA to carry a black box warning re this risk.

I also worked many years in hospital medicine where I saw people injured by medications, such as a woman who dehydrated from gastro but still taking blood pressure pills ended up with a gangrenous gut after prolonged hypoperfusion.

I think not warning consumers of all serious risks is negligence, and know my colleagues have been trained like me to be dismissive causing much serious injury.

I think this should be in large lettering and include links for further information.

I also believe that OTC products like infant panadol should also carry warnings eg liver failure, as it is a common cause of transplant needs in young Australians.

I also think given mass miseducation about mental illness there needs to be a mass education campaign re risks including irritability, aggression, addiction and withdrawal as well as suicidal as so many people don't know the adverse effects of what they are taking and trust their Doctor will tell them this.

The biased stories of benefits presented by industry to encourage more consumers is also misleading.

I am angry at how many have been put at risk in the last 14 years from Effexor, the lives destroyed while TGA has failed to protect people from dangerous drugs or even acknowledge the risk.

I congratulate whoever has initiated this progress and hope to see many more attempts to protect public safety.

The public is more interested, educated, connected and informed..pity the TGA is playing catch-up when as key Gov dept with duty of care it should be leading the way.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX