NPS MEDICINEWISE

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Transparency Reforms and Evaluation Support Section
Prescription Medicines Authorisation Branch
Therapeutic Goods Administration
PO Box 100
WODEN ACT 2606

To whom it may concern,

Re: TGA consultation: Whether the TGA should publish that a prescription medicines is under evaluation (Transparency reforms)

NPS MedicineWise would like to thank the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for providing the opportunity to offer feedback on whether the TGA should in future disclose earlier that a prescription medicine is under evaluation and the types of prescription medicines that should be published.

NPS MedicineWise is an independent, evidence-based organisation primarily funded by the Department of Health to educate health professionals and consumers about the appropriate use of medicines and medical tests. NPS MedicineWise improves the way medicines and other medical technologies are prescribed and used in practice. We do this through behaviour change interventions, evidence-based information to support decision making, educational programs which aim to address evidence-practice gaps, and targeted health communications campaigns.

We believe that consumers need the best possible information to make decisions about their treatment options so support the principle of increasing transparency that a prescription medicine is under evaluation through earlier publication, having regard to any commercial in confidence issues. Indeed, while many consumers will rely on advice from their general practitioner and medical specialist, many medicines in the pipeline are expensive and knowing that a medicine is under evaluation may be helpful in informing some consumers in their decision-making around whether to participate in a clinical trial, try to fund their treatment by other means or await the outcome of an evaluation.

NPS MedicineWise is supportive of option 2 for the reasons outlined in the consultation paper:

- Affording the highest level of application transparency and a consistent approach
- Consistency with some comparable overseas regulators.

However, this is less likely to impact on the work of our organisation given our focus on the post-market environment. Whichever option is adopted, we would be happy to assist with communication of the changes to consumers and clinicians, if it is warranted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback. We are very happy to provide further clarification or guidance as needed and look forward to our continued collaboration with the TGA in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Caroline Zoers
External Relations and Policy Manager