



## **KETAMINE RESCHEDULING**

At its most recent meeting, the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee confirmed its decision, foreshadowed after the October 2004 meeting, to reschedule ketamine from Schedule 4 ("Restricted Drug") to Schedule 8 ("Controlled Drug").

The decision was based on growing evidence that shows an increasing rate of ketamine diversion from legitimate medical and veterinary sources, illicit use and abuse of ketamine and evidence of physical and psychological symptoms of ketamine dependence among recreational users.

This rescheduling will come into effect in Queensland on the recommended date of 1 May 2005. It will have a number of ramifications for poisons licence holders, veterinarians, doctors, dentists, pharmacists and other health professionals:-

### **LICENSEES**

A person who manufactures controlled drugs or sells controlled drugs by wholesale must be licensed by the Chief Executive to do so. A licence to manufacture or sell restricted drugs (S4) by wholesale does not allow for the manufacture or sale of controlled drugs (S8). If you manufacture or sell ketamine by wholesale and do not currently hold a licence to manufacture or sell controlled drugs, you should contact your local Population Health Unit.

### **STORAGE**

From 1 May 2005, ketamine, as is the case for all controlled drugs, must be stored in accordance with section 119 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* ("the regulation") ie in a receptacle that complies with appendix 6 of the regulation, or in another place (a "secure place") an inspector who inspects the place is reasonably satisfied is at least as secure as a receptacle that complies with appendix 6.

Persons authorised to be in possession of controlled drugs must always keep the receptacle or secure place locked, other than when a controlled drug is being put into or taken out of the receptacle or place and must personally possess the key or combination to the receptacle or place.

An ambulance officer, doctor, rural and isolated practice endorsed nurse or veterinary surgeon may possess a controlled drug at a place other than the place where the person practises his/her profession, but must keep the drug in a secure place under his/her personal control.

## **RECORDS**

All persons who obtain, possess, dispense and use a controlled drug must keep the appropriate records. These are specified in sections 98 – 117 of the regulation and include, but are not necessarily limited to, the date of the transaction, name and address of the person supplied with the drug, the quantity/volume of the drug involved and the balance of the drug remaining in stock.

## **TRANSPORT/DELIVERY**

Controlled drugs must only be sold by licensees or pharmacists on a purchase order from an authorised person. The controlled drug must be delivered in a securely closed package with the appropriate documentation, and an acknowledgment of receipt is also required.

## **REPORTING OF THEFT OR LOSS**

Any discrepancy between the quantity/volume of a controlled drug kept by a person and the balance shown in the person's records is found, that person must immediately advise the Chief Executive in writing.

If you have any enquiries about your obligations regarding the obtaining, sale and supply of ketamine as a controlled drug, or need further information about licensing, recording and storage requirements, please contact your local Population Health Unit:

**Gold Coast:** ph: 5509 7222

**Brisbane Southside:** ph: 3000 9148

**Ipswich:** ph: 3810 1500

**Darling Downs:** ph: 4631 9888

**Charleville:** ph: 4656 8100

**Brisbane Northside:** ph: 3624 1111

**Redcliffe:** ph: 3897 6480

**Maroochydore:** ph: 5409 6600

**Bundaberg:** ph: 4150 2780

**Hervey Bay:** ph: 4120 6000

**Rockhampton:** ph: 4920 6989

**Longreach:** ph: 4658 0859

**Mackay:** ph: 4968 6611

**Townsville:** ph: 4753 9000

**Mt Isa:** ph: 4744 4846

**Cairns:** ph: 4050 3600

**Thursday Island:** ph: 4069 0400