

Queensland Codeine Reschedule Communique` Working Group Outcomes

Meeting held 22 June 2017

Issue #2

On 20 December 2016, the Commonwealth Department of Health, through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced the final decision that over the counter medicines containing codeine will become prescription only products from 1 February 2018. These changes are expected to have impacts on consumers as well as a range of primary care providers including general medical practices, pain clinics, alcohol and drug treatment services and pharmacies.

To coordinate the implementation of the codeine rescheduling decision in Queensland, the Queensland Health has formed a Working Group tasked with guiding communication efforts that will raise awareness of the changes among health professionals and provide further information and ongoing support to consumers.

Outcomes

- The terms of reference, previous minutes and communique were formally adopted by the committee.
- All members agreed to assist the TGA with the development of education materials where required.
- Data on the use of treatment services for Codeine as the primary drug of concern in Queensland was discussed; however fairly small numbers meant it was of limited use.
- All members provided insight into useful materials for each health professional impacted by the changes, as well as information for consumers.

Actions

- Investigate professional development options for pharmacists, graduate doctors, general practitioners, practice nurses and nurse practitioners.
- Discuss the upcoming changes and possible increase in service use with intervention teams.
- Initiate a Queensland Health landing page that contains links to the TGA materials, communiques, fact sheets and other materials.

Meeting schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for 3 August 2017.

Further information

Health professionals and consumers can access more information about the changes to codeine access on the TGA website: www.tga.gov.au

If you would like more information about the Working Group or if you would like to suggest additional representatives, please contact the Healthcare Legislation Improvement Unit:

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