

15 October 2015

Medicines.Scheduling@tga.gov.au

Re: Consultation: Invitation for public comment – ACMS meeting, November 2015

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national professional organisation for over 3,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia's health system. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with a core base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other health service facilities.

SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core business of pharmacists, especially in hospitals. SHPA supports pharmacists to meet medication and related service needs, so that both optimal health outcomes and economic objectives are achieved for Australians, as individuals, for the community as a whole and for healthcare facilities within our systems of healthcare.

SHPA believes that any changes to the scheduling of medicines should be driven and underpinned by the principles of patient safety.

Consistent with our submission regarding esomeprazole, SHPA does not support any Schedule 2 entries for the PPIs lansoprazole, omeprazole and rabeprazole. Although the change would only apply to packs containing no more than 7 days' supply of the medicine, we believe that these medicines should be Schedule 3 to ensure appropriate consultation and review by a pharmacist to minimise the number of people who move to long term use of these medicines.

As part of Choosing Wisely Australia the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) have flagged the long term use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) as one of the top five tests, treatments or procedures which should be questioned by GPs and their patients. That statement is based on the evidence that a high proportion of patients are kept on maximal doses long term when this should not be the case. (<http://www.choosingwisely.org.au/recommendations/racgp>)

If you would like to discuss the issues raised in this submission or require further information, please contact our office. (shpa@shpa.org.au or 03 9486 0177)

Yours sincerely



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SHPA Federal President

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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