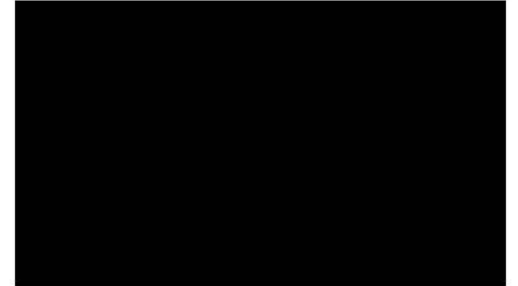




NSW Poisons Information Centre
www.poisonsinfo.nsw.gov.au

16 Oct 2019

Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling
Therapeutic Goods Administration
136 Narrabundah Ln, Symonston ACT 2609



Re: Proposed amendments referred for scheduling advice to ACMS #28

The NSW Poisons Information Centre (NSWPIC) provides a phone-based advice service on suspected poisonings to the public and health professionals calling from NSW, TAS and ACT on a near full-time basis and a shared after-hours service to the remainder of Australia. This results in approximately half of Australia's poisons-related calls being received by our Centre.

1.2. Zolmitriptan and 1.3. Sumatriptan

The NSW Poisons Centre does not support the proposed change to scheduling of sumatriptan and zolmitriptan. We regularly receive calls regarding exposures to triptan medications, and although not large in numbers, these calls are very likely to be symptomatic and require medical treatment (see table below). Over 60% of exposures to sumatriptan were symptomatic and 62 of the 92 exposures (67%) required medical treatment. The ability of triptans to interact with other medications and existing medical conditions is likely to contribute to this increased incidence of symptomatic adverse reactions & poisoning exposures. Patients suffering migraine are also more likely to be taking other pain medication, some of which have an increased likelihood of interaction with triptans, especially in overdose. Wider availability as a schedule 3 product will see an increased use of triptans in the community and growth in these numbers of adverse reactions and poisoning exposures. The very real possibility exists that these exposures will increase disproportionately to usage as community awareness grows and patients begin self-prescribing. Current regulations which allow for emergency supply to patients who have a clear history of dispensing are sufficient to ensure those patients in need are able to safely access their regular medication in times of need without increasing risk to the community.

Regards



Sumatriptan exposures 06.01.14 to 15.10.19
Count of Exposure type and symptoms of those exposures

	Accidental	Adverse reaction	deliberate-self poisoning	Intentional:other	Therapeutic Error	(blank)	Grand Total
Asymptomatic	10		6	2	10		28
Not Known if Related	1	7	1				9
Related Symptomatic	5	13	21	1	8		48
Symptoms Unknown			3		1		4
Unrelated Symptomatic				1	2		3
(blank)							
Grand Total	16	20	31	4	21		92