

# Supply of Product Starter packs by Wholesalers

The possession for demonstration purposes of a maximum of one sample of each Schedule 4 poison by representatives or agents of manufacturers and/or wholesalers holding a Victorian licence, is no longer directly authorised by the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006.

Section 5.1 of the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Edition 15, effective date 6 December 2006, covers the supply, size, quantities carried and supplied, record keeping, labelling and product information, transport and storage, security and returns and disposal of product starter packs.

The Glossary in the Code states that a starter pack "*means quantity of a product supplied without cost to medical practitioners, dentist and hospital pharmacists. Starter packs are also referred to as "samples" by healthcare professionals.*"

Recommendation 12 of the National Competition Policy Review of Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Legislation 2001 (the Galbally Review) recommended that the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct be amended to provide more comprehensively for the supply of clinical samples and that States and Territories require compliance of manufacturers and wholesalers with the amended code through a condition on their licences.

In accordance with the agreement of the Council of Australian Governments on the recommendations from the Galbally Review, holders of licences to manufacture and sell or supply by wholesale and licences to sell or supply by wholesale Schedule 2, 3, or 4 poisons will now be regulated in Victoria by the addition of a new licence condition. The condition is to the effect that the licence holder is to adhere to Section 5.1 of the Edition 15 of the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct with respect to the supply of product starter packs. Amended licences will be sent to licence holders over the next few weeks.

Supply of starter packs of Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 poisons is not authorised in Victoria.

**The new standard condition for all manufacture/wholesale and wholesale licence holders for S2, 3 or 4 poisons will be as follows:**

*The holder of this licence must ensure that supply of starter packs of Schedule 4 poisons is in accordance with Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Edition 15 Section 5.1 (the Code). The term "starter packs" has the same meaning here as in the Code.*

See the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Edition 15 on <http://www.medicinesaustralia.com.au>

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1 October 2007