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AMA submission – TGA/ACMS codeine scheduling interim decision

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The AMA supports the interim decision of the delegate to remove codeine preparations from Schedule 2 and 3, based on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS).

The AMA considers it is important to support the independence and evidence-based approach of the ACMS.

We maintain our position that ACMS needs a practising general practitioner to provide first-hand experience of the likely impact of scheduling decisions on patient management.

It will be necessary to introduce this change together with a comprehensive education campaign targeting both consumers and health practitioners that clearly explains why the decision has been made and provides full information on effective and safe over-the-counter alternatives.

The AMA continues to advocate for the implementation of the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs system in each state and territory. This system would allow doctors and pharmacists to monitor in real time the prescribing and dispensing a range of medicines with the potential for misuse and harm, not only Schedule 8 medicines.

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