



Ask your pharmacist about managing pain

Changes to access of medicines containing low-dose codeine

From 1 February 2018, medicines containing low-dose codeine will require a prescription from your doctor.

Why has this change occurred?

The Government's medicines regulator announced in December 2016 that all medicines containing low-dose codeine should be upscheduled to Schedule 4 (Prescription Only Medicine) from 1 February 2018. This decision was taken as there are safer and more effective options available for most patients.

Which medicines will be affected?

- Panadeine®, Panadeine Extra®, Mersyndol®
- Nurofen Plus®, Panafen Plus®
- Aspalgin®, Codis®, Dispirin Forte®
- Codral Original Cold & Flu®, Demazin Day & Night Cold & Flu®
- Equivalent generic products

What do the changes mean for me as a patient?

From 1 February 2018 you will need a prescription to purchase these medicines.

Pharmacists can provide advice on managing your pain. Your pharmacist may recommend an alternative pain relief treatment available over the counter, or may recommend you consult your doctor.

From now until 1 February 2018, your pharmacist may continue to use a real-time recording system called MedsASSIST when supplying medicines containing codeine. This program assists pharmacists to assess the appropriateness of supply of these medicines, and to support patients to effectively manage their pain.

What alternatives can my pharmacist suggest to manage my pain?

You should feel confident that your pharmacist is there to support you in managing your pain. Your pharmacist can recommend a variety of alternatives to help you. Talk to your pharmacist today about the options available.

Where can I get more information on the changes?

The TGA has a codeine information hub which is publicly available for you to access at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/codeine-info-hub>

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Phone: 02 6270 1888

Fax: 02 6270 1800

Email: guild.nat@guild.org.au

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Phone: 02 6283 4777

Fax: 02 6285 2869

Email: psa.nat@psa.org.au