



THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Secretariat Denise
: Tringham
P O Box 22
234
Wellington
6441
Email: Tel: (04) 938
4827
Fax:
psnz@paradi
se.net.nz

Friday, 26 March 2010

Regulations under the Medicines Act 1981 Consultation
Policy Unit
Health and Disability Systems Strategy Directorate
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6145

Re: Ministry of Health Consultation on Regulations under the Medicines Act 1981

Please consider this submission from the Chair of the Injury Special Interest Group of the Paediatric Society of New Zealand.

The Medicines Regulations review provides an opportunity to update and clarify the definitions used for child resistant packaging (Medicines Regulations 1984, Part 2) and extend New Zealand's provisions for the use of this packaging onto a wider range of medicines and pharmaceuticals.

Childhood poisoning from unintended access to medicines and pharmaceuticals contributes to the injury hospitalisation of children in New Zealand. Poisoning is the third leading cause of injury hospitalisation of children aged younger than five years of age (Gulliver & Simpson, 2007). By their fifth birthday it is estimated that almost one in ten children has been involved in a poisoning incident (Grant, 2006 page 6). The National Poisons Centre has reported that over a third (36%) of all calls about childhood poisoning involve children inadvertently accessing prescription medicines (2005).

Legislation that requires child resistant packaging is known to be effective for reducing the incidence of child hospitalisation and death from unintended prescription medicine poisoning (McKay, 2006). This review process provides an opportunity to review and update this important part of New Zealand's measures to reduce childhood injury.

Yours sincerely

Julie Chambers
Chair
Injury Special Interest Group