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## AMA submission to ACMS re orphenadrine downscheduling proposal

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The AMA strongly opposes the proposal to create a new Schedule 3 entry to allow low dose/small packs of orphenadrine compounded with paracetamol to be available over the counter without a prescription from a medical practitioner.

The Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS) will be well aware that orphenadrine is potentially very toxic in overdose. It also has significant abuse potential and is responsible for the majority of anticholinergic deaths in countries where this has been studied.

Orphenadrine is not a high volume prescription item, and given that those who would benefit from it have conditions which should require medical management, there is no rationale for a proposal to reschedule.

The AMA reiterates, as it has in previous submissions to the ACMS, that without having any details of the proposal, the rationale and its objectives, it is difficult to frame an informed and relevant submission.

In the absence of any other information the AMA can only rely on the currently available published evidence pointing to risks of abuse, overdose and death.

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