



# Code of Practice

Adopted:	8 October 1991
Revised:	28 May 1992
Revised:	15 October 1992
Authorised by TPC:	27 January 1994
Revised to meet conditions of authorisation:	12 May 1994
Revised:	April 1995
Revised:	September 1996
Revised:	September 1999
Revised:	July 2000
<b>Revised:</b>	<b>April 2001</b>

LEVEL 4, 140 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW 2060  
POSTAL ADDRESS: PRIVATE BAG 938, NORTH SYDNEY 2059  
ADVERTISING SERVICES OFFICE TELEPHONE: (02) 9955 7205  
FAX: (02) 9957 6204    [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>PREFACE</b>	4
1. <b>DEFINITIONS</b>	5
2. <b>INTRODUCTION</b>	7
3. <b>OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE</b>	8

## PART A: THE CODE AND ITS APPLICATION

4. <b>PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE</b>	9
5. <b>ADVERTISING</b>	
5.1 General principles—all non-prescription consumer healthcare products	10
5.2 Comparative advertising	10
5.3 Advertising to consumers	11
5.4 Advertising to healthcare professionals	11
5.5 Advertising of Schedule 3 medicines to consumers	14
6. <b>PROMOTION</b>	
6.1 General principles -all non-prescription consumer healthcare products	16
6.2 Scheduled substances and internal analgesics	16
6.3 Children	17
7. <b>CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION</b>	
7.1 Background	18
7.2 CMI content	18
7.3 Techniques considered inappropriate in provision of CMI	18
7.4 Complaint handling—CMI	19

## **PART B: MANAGEMENT OF THE CODE**

<b>8.</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>COMPLAINT PROCEDURE</b>	
9.1	Policy	21
9.2	Complaint handling procedure	21
9.3	Guidelines for complaints	
9.3.1	Externally generated complaints	23
9.3.2	Industry generated complaints	23
9.3.3	Response by Member	24
9.3.4	Annual Report	24
<b>10.</b>	<b>SANCTIONS</b>	
10.1	Breaches	25
10.2	Sanctions able to be applied by complaints panel	26
10.3	Sanctions able to be applied by Committee of Management	27
<b>11.</b>	<b>RIGHT OF APPEAL</b>	
11.1	Compliance with sanctions	28
11.2	Appeal against determinations of complaints panel	28
<b>12.</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>	
12.1	Objectives	35
12.2	Aims of the Monitoring Process	35
12.3	Scope	35
12.4	Protocol for the activities of the Promotional Monitoring Committee	35
12.5	Membership of the Promotional Monitoring Committee	35

## **PREFACE**

Authorisation of the then PMAA Code of Practice by the Trade Practices Commission (TPC) was granted on 27 January 1994 and came into force on 18 February 1994.

### **This authorisation applies to:**

- ▶ ☐ ASMI and its members from time to time;
- ▶ ☐ all future proposed amendments to these arrangements which ASMI provides to the Commission and which the Commission considers are not significant and will not materially alter the circumstances of any authorisation granted in respect of these arrangements.

### **The Commission further required that:**

- ▶ ☐ the public and healthcare professionals be advised of the existence of the Code and the complaint process;
- ▶ ☐ the Executive Director circulate to the Complaints Panel and to the Marketing & Ethics Subcommittee monthly summaries of all complaints received and their disposition.

### **The Commission will adopt the following procedures with respect to future amendments of the Code:**

- ▶ ☐ ASMI will notify the Commission of amendments it proposes to make to the Code;
- ▶ ☐ within 10 working days of the Commission receiving these, the Commission will advise ASMI if it considers the proposed amendments are significant and would materially alter the circumstances of any authorisation granted by the Commission.
- ▶ ☐ both the proposed amendments and the Commission's advice to ASMI concerning those amendments will be placed on the public register of authorisation applications maintained by the Commission, subject to the Commission's power to, on request, exclude material from the public register.

The Commission has agreed that no time limit be imposed on the authorisation, subject to regular ASMI reviews of the Code.

*NOTE: This preface does not form part of the Code.*

## 1. DEFINITIONS

In this Code of Practice:

- ▶ **"Advertisement"** includes every form of communication whether in a publication, or by display or any notice, or by means of any catalogue, price list, leaflet, booklet, letter (whether circular or addressed to a particular person) or other document, or by means of any packaging materials (including all labels, cartons, direction folders, and other packaging components bearing printed matter), or by words inscribed on any article, or by exhibition of a photograph or film, or by way of sound recording, radio or television, the Internet, in the spoken word, or in any other way
- ▶ **"Consumer Advertisement"** means an advertisement in consumer media as defined and covered by the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.
- ▶ **"Consumer Medicines Information (CMI)"** is confined to factual information concerning all Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) and their use. The purpose is to help consumers use medicines appropriately and supplement and support the counseling activities of doctors, pharmacists and other caregivers. CMI is not an advertising or promotional tool. CMI must comply with Schedule 13 of the Therapeutic Goods Regulations and must be consistent with product information (within the meaning of section 32 of the Therapeutic Goods Act).
- ▶ **"The Association"** means the Australian Self-medication Industry Incorporated.
- ▶ **"Code"** means the ASMI Code of Practice, and includes (unless the context requires otherwise) the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.
- ▶ **"Committee of Management"** means the Committee as specified in Part IV of the Rules\* of the Association, which has been elected to control and manage the affairs of the Association.
- ▶ **"Complaints Panel"** means the ASMI Code of Practice Complaints Panel.
- ▶ **"Discredit"** means injure the reputation of or destroy confidence in the product/industry.
- ▶ **"Executive Subcommittee"** means the committee appointed by the Committee of Management\* and comprising, but not limited to, the Association's President, two Vice Presidents and Immediate Past President.
- ▶ **"External Use"** in relation to any medicine or related product means for application to the anal canal, ear, eye, mucosa of the mouth, nose, skin, teeth, throat or vagina, where local action only is required and where extensive systemic absorption will not occur, but this shall not apply to nasal drops, nasal inhalations, nasal sprays, teething applications, throat lozenges, throat pastilles, throat sprays or throat tablets.
- ▶ **"Healthcare professionals"** means persons designated under Regulation 4(1), (2) and (2A) of the Therapeutic Goods Regulations.
- ▶ The **"industry"** means the basic manufacture and/or formulation and/or importation and/or basic or applied research into and/or the registration and/or marketing of non-prescription consumer healthcare products.

- ▶ □ **"Marketing & Ethics Subcommittee"** means the committee appointed by the Committee of Management to, *inter alia*, monitor and review the ASMI Code of Practice.
- ▶ □ **"Member"** means any Ordinary or Associate member as defined by the ASMI Rules. For the purposes of this Code, "Member" also includes any consenting non-member company, which has agreed to be bound by all or part of the provisions of the Code.
- ▶ □ **"Non-prescription consumer healthcare products"** means products for health/personal care that may be purchased directly by consumers. These include, but are not limited to, products which are available to the public without medical prescription and which are used for the purpose of or in connection with:
  - preventing, diagnosing or alleviating a disease, ailment, defect or injury in humans;
  - influencing, inhibiting or modifying a physiological process in humans;
  - testing for a physiologic condition or the susceptibility of man to a disease or ailment; or
  - destroying or inhibiting micro-organisms that may be harmful to humans.
- ▶ □ **"Off Site Location"** means any area of a retail outlet that is not the normal shelf placement site for therapeutic goods. Within grocery outlets, off site locations are defined as anywhere in the store that is beyond the Health & Beauty section. In Pharmacy, off site is defined as anywhere outside the store. For other distribution channels, promotional displays that appear other than in the routine placement area for therapeutic goods would be defined as off site.
- ▶ □ **"Parties"** means, for the purpose of the complaint and appeal processes, both the complainant and the company, which is the subject of a complaint.
- ▶ □ **"Rules"** means the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.
- ▶ □ **"Unfair"** means not equitable or honest or impartial or according to the Rules.

*Note: The first use of a defined term is underlined and marked with an asterisk (\*).*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Association\* is the corporate representative and advocate for manufacturers of non-prescription consumer healthcare products\*.
- 2.2 As an integral part of Australia's healthcare system, the Association, through its Members\*, is committed to positively encouraging and extending the use of self-medication in Australia and to making available to the public, quality non-prescription consumer healthcare products which are both safe and effective when used as directed.
- 2.3 In this commitment, the Association's Members recognise that, whilst non-prescription consumer healthcare products can bring substantial social and economic benefits to the community, the advertising and promotion of these products should be responsible and balanced.
- 2.4 For these reasons, the Association has developed and promulgated this Code of Practice which requires Members to submit to its provisions as an act of self-discipline.
- 2.5 Recognising that the conduct of an individual Member can reflect upon both the industry\* and the Association's membership as a whole, the Code\* sets out to address what are deemed to be appropriate standards of commercial conduct generally and of advertising and promotional practices in particular.
- 2.6 Acceptance and observance of its provisions are binding and a condition of membership of the Association.
- 2.7 Members also acknowledge that the Code itself is to be applied in spirit, as well as in the letter, so that high ethical standards are followed throughout the industry.
- 2.8 Members shall ensure that all agents acting on their behalf are fully conversant with the provisions of this Code. Manufacturing companies of non-prescription consumer healthcare products outside the Association are invited to accept and observe this Code.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE**

This Code is intended to establish the basic parameters which guide Members in the conduct of their business and particularly in matters of advertising and promotion of non-prescription consumer healthcare products.

Specifically, in relation to non-prescription consumer healthcare products, the Code seeks to assist Members to:

- ▶ ☐ responsibly inform consumers about the products which are available;
- ▶ ☐ uphold a high standard in the communication of information about the products;
- ▶ ☐ ensure that all claims made for the products are accurate, balanced and based on sound and objective scientific considerations;
- ▶ ☐ ensure that such information is communicated in a way which promotes the responsible use of the products.



## **PART A: THE CODE AND ITS APPLICATION**

### **4. PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE**

- 4.1** Members shall not engage in any unfair\* or unconscionable conduct or commercial practice.
- 4.2** Members shall at all times ensure that they are familiar with, and comply with, the relevant provisions of Commonwealth and/or State Acts, Regulations or other legal instruments which pertain to the functions and operations in the industry.
- 4.3** Members shall at all times comply with provisions of:
  - 4.3.1** the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code;
  - 4.3.2** the Code of Good Manufacturing Practiceand such other Codes as are from time to time developed and/or endorsed by the Association.
- 4.3** A Member shall ensure that all relevant persons, including representatives employed by the Member are aware of the requirements of this Code and the responsibilities inherent in membership of the Association.
- 4.4** Members will cooperate with the Association in the investigation of problems which may from time to time arise with respect to the safe use of non-prescription consumer healthcare products.
- 4.5** Members will cooperate to whatever extent they are reasonably able in programs conducted by the Association, either on its own or in collaboration with Government authorities, which are aimed to educate the user or the consumer in the safe and proper use of non-prescription consumer healthcare products.
- 4.6** Members will assist the Association and/or Government authorities to the full extent that they are able in consideration of any existing regulations or voluntary schemes, or any which may be proposed, having in mind both their responsibilities under this Code and the needs and legitimate interests of the industry.
- 4.7** Members will draw to the attention of the Association any information which may lead to improvement in standards of correct and safe use of non-prescription consumer healthcare products.

## 5. ADVERTISING

### 5.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES— ALL NON-PRESCRIPTION CONSUMER HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS

- 5.1.1** Section 5 of this Code applies to Members whose non-prescription consumer healthcare products are promoted to healthcare professionals\*, consumers, or both.
- 5.1.2** **Scope:** Nothing in this Section of the Code of Practice shall be construed as replacing, diminishing or precluding requirements of The Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code in relation to consumer advertisements\* of non-prescription consumer healthcare products. This section of the Code of Practice applies to all advertisements\* for non-prescription consumer healthcare products, including comparative advertisements and advertisements for Schedule 3 items.
- 5.1.3** **Claims:** Information and medical claims about non-prescription consumer healthcare products must be current, accurate, balanced, and must not mislead either directly, by implication, or by omission.

#### Explanatory Notes

Information that may be considered false or misleading includes the following examples:

- ▶ ☐ literature references, or quotations or claims that are more favorable than has been demonstrated by the body of clinical evidence or experience;
- ▶ ☐ information or conclusions from a study that is clearly inadequate in design, scope or conduct to furnish support for such information and conclusions;
- ▶ ☐ citing of data previously valid but made obsolete or false by subsequent findings;
- ▶ ☐ suggestions or representations of uses, dosages, or indications not approved by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

- 5.1.4** Furthermore, information and claims must, when made, have been substantiated, such substantiation being provided without delay upon request. A member unable or unwilling to provide a reference in substantiation of a claim, should refrain from citing it. An abstract or summary of unpublished data should be identified as such when cited.

4.9

- 5.1.5** Members may, by virtue of belonging to other industry associations, be required also to conform to codes of practice of such other associations.

### 5.2 COMPARATIVE ADVERTISING

5.2.

Advertisements containing comparison with other advertisers, or other non-prescription consumer healthcare products shall comply with the terms of this section.

Covered  
in 5.1.3

- ▶ Comparative advertisements should not be misleading, or likely to be misleading, either about the products advertised or that with which it is compared.

5.1.

- ▶ Points of comparison should be based on facts which have been previously substantiated and reflect the body of scientific evidence or experience at the time the advertisement is published.

Explanatory  
Notes

Techniques which may be considered inappropriate and contrary to the provisions of this Code include the following examples:

5.2.

- ▶ It should be clear with what the advertised non-prescription consumer healthcare products is being compared and upon what basis.
- ▶ Claims of superior or superlative status should be expressed in terms which accurately reflect the extent and the nature of the evidence available to substantiate them.
- ▶ Advertisements should not describe or show the non-prescription consumer healthcare products of a competitor as broken or defaced, inoperative or ineffective. The only exception is where the description or depiction is based upon the outcome of fair comparative tests to which the advertiser's product also has been subjected and the results of such tests are stated.

### 5.3 ADVERTISING TO CONSUMERS

#### 5.3.1 Compliance with advertising regulations

5.4.

Members shall submit copy for advertising to consumers to the appropriate bodies (eg. ASMI and CHCA) for approval in accordance with the delegations under the Therapeutic Goods Regulations and the Broadcasting Services Act. On approval Members shall submit advertising copy to the Federation of Commercial Television Stations (FACTS), the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters or the Australian Cinema Advertising Council where applicable.

#### 5.3.2 Compliance with the ASMI Code of Practice

5.4.

In addition to the requirements in 5.3.1, Members shall submit all mainstream advertising material directed to consumers to the ASMI for approval to ensure compliance with the ASMI Code of Practice.

### 5.4 ADVERTISING TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

E. N

The intent of this Clause is to ensure that all promotion and advertising of non-prescription consumer healthcare products directed to healthcare professionals, encourages rational use of medicines, does not mislead and contributes to ASMI's overall aim of promoting responsible self-medication.

Advertising material directed to healthcare professionals does not require prior approval by ASMI's approval service. Approval is only required for consumer advertising in broadcast media, and other consumer media as detailed in Clauses 5.3.1. Companies must therefore satisfy themselves that any material they produce aimed at healthcare professionals complies with the Code.

Complaints regarding advertising or promotion of any OTC medicines directed to healthcare professionals will be adjudicated through ASMI's Complaints Handling Process outlined in Clause 9.

Excluded from the scope of this Code are advertising and promotional activities relating to prescription (Schedule 4) products. These activities fall under the APMA Code of Conduct.

Advertising for OTC medicines, directed to healthcare professionals must comply with the body of the ASMI Code, as well as this Clause, 5.4.

## Requirements for Advertising of Unscheduled and Pharmacy Medicines (Schedule 2) to Healthcare Professionals

### Minimum requirements

Advertising for unscheduled and Pharmacy Medicines (Schedule 2) where it is directed to healthcare professionals, shall contain the following information as a minimum:

5.5.

- ▶ the brand name of the products
- ▶ the Australian Approved Name(s) of the active ingredient(s)
- ▶ a statement of the indication for use of the goods
- ▶ For multi-ingredient products, the advertisement shall contain reference to at least the first four principal active ingredients and the statement "For full active ingredients, see the label".

### Brand name reminder advertising

Brand name reminder advertising i.e. conveying no claims or promotional statements, shall contain the following minimum information:

5.5.2.1

- ▶ the brand name of the product
- ▶ the Australian Approved Name(s) of the active ingredient(s)
- ▶ For multi-ingredient products, the advertisement shall contain reference to at least the first four principal active ingredients and a statement "For full active ingredients, see the label".

Delete

Where the nature of the brand name reminder is such that it is demonstrably and obviously impractical to display legibly the information required, the advertisement must be accompanied by a document that contains the required information.

5.5.2.2

Advertising which conveys only purchasing details/information for the pharmacist and which communicates no claims or benefits of the goods shall be exempted from the above requirements.

## 5.5 ADVERTISING OF PHARMACIST ONLY MEDICINES (SCHEDULE 3)

### Background

With the introduction of the Therapeutic Goods Regulations adopted on 15/2/91, non-prescription consumer healthcare products classified as Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) could not legally be advertised directly to the general public throughout Australia.

E.N.

A review into advertising in 1997 produced a report "*Further Review of the Brand Advertising of Schedule 3 Medicines*", which recommended that Pharmacist Only Medicine (Schedule 3) branded advertising direct to the consumer be permitted subject to certain conditions. As a result the NDPSC will determine which Pharmacist Only Medicine (Schedule 3) substances are permitted to be brand advertised to the general public and for what indications, in accordance with the nationally agreed guidelines. These substances are published in Appendix H of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP).

Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) are described in the Standard for Uniform Scheduling of Drugs & Poisons as:

“Substances, the safe use of which requires professional advice but which should be available to the public from a pharmacist without a prescription”.

Consequently their sale to the general public requires the personal involvement of the pharmacist to ensure the product is suitable for the customer and that the customer is informed on the correct method of use. Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) must be stored in pharmacy in areas to which the public does not generally have access.

Except for those Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3 substances) for which direct to consumer advertising is permitted, promotional or advertising material relating to Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) must not be visible to the public.

For those Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3 substances) for which direct to consumer brand advertising is permitted, promotional or advertising material must comply with the body of this Code as well as the requirements of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

5.4.3.2

For those Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3 substances) not permitted to be brand advertised to the general public, advertising should be directed to healthcare professionals only and must not be directed to pharmacy assistants or other non-qualified personnel.

#### **5.5.1 Advertising of Pharmacist Only Medicines (S3) to Healthcare Professionals.**

Advertisements for Pharmacist Only Medicines (S3) shall comply with any applicable conditions of registration.

##### **Minimum requirements**

Advertisements directed to healthcare professionals must include as a minimum:

5.5.

- ▶ the brand name of the product
- ▶ the Australian Approved Name(s) of the active ingredient(s)
- ▶ the approved indication/s for use
- ▶ a succinct statement of the contra-indications, clinically significant precautions and side-effects
- ▶ dosage and method of use
- ▶ the name of the supplier and the city, town or locality of the registered office
- ▶ a clear and unambiguous statement for healthcare professionals to review the full PI (if more extensive than the above) before recommending, and alerting them to the availability of the full PI from the manufacturer on request.

##### **Brand name reminder advertising**

Brand name reminder advertising, i.e. conveying no claims or promotional statements, shall contain the following minimum information:

5.5.5.2

- ▶ the brand name of the product
- ▶ the Australian Approved Name(s) of the active ingredient(s)
- ▶ the name of the supplier and the city, town or locality of the registered office, and
- ▶ a statement to the effect that further information is available on request from the manufacturer

Delete

Where the nature of the brand name reminder is such that it is demonstrably and obviously impractical to display legibly the information required, the advertisement must be accompanied by a document that contains the required information.

5.5.2.2

Advertising which conveys only purchasing details/information for the pharmacist and which communicates no claims or benefits of the goods shall be exempted from the above requirements.

## 5.5.2 Advertising of Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) To Consumers

### 5.5.2.1 Direct to Consumer Advertising

5.4.3.1

For those Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) for which branded advertising is permitted, all advertising and promotional activity should comply with this Code and the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code and advertising shall be submitted for approval as provided for in clause 5.3 of this Code.

### 5.5.2 Indirect Consumer Advertising

E.N. 5.4.4

Indirect advertising of other Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) can provide relevant information to consumers and enhance their awareness that the treatments are available without a doctor's prescription, and can direct them to seek further information from their doctor or pharmacist about those treatments.

### Objectives of indirect advertisements for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3)

The need to create such awareness may arise from the availability of new OTC treatments, or rescheduling which has enabled treatments which had been previously restricted to prescription only use, to be now available without a prescription.

- ▶|| Inform consumers of the availability of Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3).
- ▶|| Emphasise that such treatments may only be used on the recommendation of, or after consultation with, a pharmacist or medical practitioner.
- ▶|| Convey information of an educational, rather than promotional nature.
- ▶|| Refer consumers to their pharmacist or doctor for further information, thus promoting better communication between consumers and health professionals.

### The Role of the Pharmacist

The role of the pharmacist as an adviser to the consumer is very important.

Once the consumer is aware of the availability of a Pharmacist Only Medicine (Schedule 3) for a particular condition or symptom, the suitability of available products, and the possible need for a doctor's diagnosis, will need to be assessed. If a suitable product is available, information about the product, its correct usage, dosage and precautions, will be required at the point of purchase when the patient is most receptive to this type of information.

Indirect advertising simply indicates availability of the Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) for certain conditions and communicates basic information. Research on advertising has shown definitively that only essential information is understood and retained by consumers [Taylor Nelson, UK].

The role of the pharmacist as adviser at the point of purchase is crucial and will not be usurped by indirect advertising of Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3). Rather, it should be enhanced.

The requirements for indirect advertisements clearly limit the scope of allowable claims, ensuring no identification of brands, product, or classes of drugs.

The provision of information via indirect advertising to consumers on some Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) provides a means of informing them of the availability of treatments and directing them to pharmacists and doctors for further discussion.

#### **Requirements for Indirect Advertising for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3)**

5.4.4.1 ▶ ☐ No reference to any pharmaceutical, or product, or any substance whatsoever by name, whether of brand, drug, chemical class, or therapeutic class. Reference to any such substance to be in terms of a treatment only.

5.4.4.2 ▶ ☐ No sponsor company identification.

5.4.4.3 ▶ ☐ Indirect advertising for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) may detail the condition, conditions or class of condition where Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) have become available or where new indications for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) are allowed.

E.N. 5.4.4 ▶ ☐ Claims must focus on building consumer awareness that certain treatments are available.

5.4.4.4 ▶ ☐ Indirect advertisements for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) must clearly emphasise the role of the pharmacist/medical practitioner in recommending actual products, and direct consumers to their pharmacist or doctor for further information.

▶ ☐ The indirect advertisement will contain one cautionary statement from each of the following categories:

##### **Category 1**

5.4.4.5 "Consult your pharmacist and/or doctor"  
"Seek your pharmacist's and/or doctor's advice"  
"Ask your pharmacist and/or doctor for advice about suitable products for you"

##### **Category 2**

"Always read the label"  
"Read label instructions carefully"  
"Make sure you understand the labeled instructions"

or words to the same effect.

E.N. 5.4.4 Companies sponsoring indirect advertising are encouraged to provide pharmacists with educational material.

5.4.4.6 No forms of incentive programs for healthcare professionals or pharmacy assistants are to be initiated for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3).

## 6. PROMOTION

### 6.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES - ALL NON-PRESCRIPTION CONSUMER HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS

- |      |              |   |
|------|--------------|---|
| 5.1. | <b>6.1.1</b> | All methods of communicating promotional information must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of this Code.  |
| 5.1. | <b>6.1.2</b> | Promotional material should not imitate the devices, copy, slogans or general layout adopted by other manufacturers in a way that is likely to mislead, deceive or confuse.   |
| 4.10 | <b>6.1.3</b> | Requests from individual members of the public for advice of a diagnostic nature must always be refused and the inquirer recommended to consult an appropriate healthcare professional.   |
| 4.11 | <b>6.1.4</b> | Requests for information on non-prescription consumer healthcare products must be answered in a balanced way to avoid the risks of raising unfounded hopes or fears in the public mind as to the results of the use of such medicines.  |
| 5.1. | <b>6.1.5</b> | No Member will promote to the general public any prize competition which is conditional on the purchase of a non-prescription consumer healthcare products. Disinfectants (not including those with antiseptic claims), unscheduled vitamin and mineral preparations and unscheduled therapeutic goods for external use* are exempted from this clause. |
| 5.1. | <b>6.1.6</b> | Encouragement or support of unsolicited sampling of a placebo of therapeutic goods for internal use, by other than a healthcare professional, is prohibited.  |

### 6.2 SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES AND INTERNAL ANALGESICS

Promotional techniques for Pharmacy Medicines (Schedule 2) or Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) or internal analgesics should be such that they are not likely to persuade consumers to purchase a non-prescription consumer healthcare product which may not be needed or a larger quantity than is sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the purchaser.

5.3

Promotional techniques should not offer incentives to recommend S2 and S3 products unless based entirely on suitability of the product for which it is required by the consumer.

Techniques which may be considered inappropriate and contrary to the provisions of the Code **if they fail the above test**, include the following examples:

E.N. 5.3.2

- ▶ ☐ Promotion to sales assistants, or to any healthcare professional, of prize competitions which are in any way related to sales to consumers of such non-prescription consumer healthcare products, which may be likely to persuade consumers to purchase a product which may not be needed or a larger quantity than is sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the purchaser.
- ▶ ☐ Distribution of samples to the public or issue of any coupon or voucher in connection with the distribution of samples, which may be likely to persuade consumers to purchase a



non-prescription consumer healthcare product which may not be needed or a larger quantity than is sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the purchaser.

- ▶ ☐ Encouragement or support of advertising of recommended "cut price" deals to the general public which may be likely to persuade consumers to purchase a non-prescription consumer healthcare product in a larger quantity than is sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the purchaser.

Examples of ticketing which may constitute a breach of this Clause include:

"special"  
temporary "value"  
"discount"  
"get it while it lasts"  
or similar forms of ticketing.

This does not, however, preclude "every day low price" policies. Lowering of prices to meet competitive challenge may be implemented, but it must not be communicated to the general public via ticketing or similar promotional techniques.

- ▶ ☐ Encouragement or support of cooperative retail press advertisements where recommended prices are featured in a manner which may be likely to persuade consumers to purchase a non-prescription consumer healthcare product in a larger quantity than is sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the purchaser.

Examples of ticketing which may constitute a breach of this Clause are detailed above.

- ▶ ☐ Encouragement or support of promotional displays in off-site locations within reach of the public which may be likely to persuade consumers to purchase a non-prescription consumer healthcare product in a larger quantity than is sufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the purchaser, e.g. dump bins, gondola ends (shared or full), dispensers, impulse bars at check out or other known impulse areas. Free standing off location displays should only be placed in the appropriate category aisles, and should display stock as it is on shelf, that is neatly stacked not jumbled. Shelf extensions such as dispenser units may only be displayed in the appropriate category aisles.

### 6.2.1 Pharmacist Only Medicine (Schedule 3) branded advertising

E.N. 5.4.3

Promotion of Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3 substances) listed in Appendix H of the SUSDP by way of empty packs does not constitute a breach of the requirements. Promotional material for Pharmacist Only Medicines (Schedule 3) not permitted to be brand advertised to the general public must not be visible to the general public and must be exclusively directed to healthcare professionals.

## 6.3 CHILDREN

5.4.

No Member shall promote any non-prescription consumer healthcare product, other than the therapeutic goods listed in Appendix 5 of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code, to children.

For therapeutic goods not listed in Appendix 5, techniques which may be considered inappropriate and contrary to the provisions of the Code, include the following examples:

E.N. 5.4.5

- ▶ ☐ Encouragement or support of the positioning of non-prescription consumer healthcare products where they are readily accessible to children.

- ▶ Direction of advertising of non-prescription consumer healthcare products to children, except for those listed in Appendix 5 of the TGAC.
- ▶ Advertising of non-prescription consumer healthcare products in a manner which is likely to lead to its use by children without parental supervision.