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Report of the 35th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD)

The 35th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) met in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 4-8 June 2012. This was the first meeting where the Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control (adopted by WHO Executive Board in January 2010) applied.

This report contains a summary of the Committee’s evaluations. Eleven substances were evaluated, two of which were critical reviews: γ-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and ketamine. GHB was recommended to be rescheduled from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The report also discusses the nine substances that were pre-reviewed: dextromethorphan, tapentadol, N-benzylpiperazine (BZP), 1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (TFMPP), 1-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazine (mCPP), 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)piperazine (MeOPP), 1-(3,4-methylenedioxybenzyl)piperazine (MDBP), γ-butyrolactone (GBL), and 1,4-butanediol (1,4-BD). Of these, tapentadol, BZP, GBL and 1,4-BD were recommended for critical review. Issues identified for consideration at future Expert Committee meetings are also listed. Furthermore, the report discusses the use of terms, the use of pharmacovigilance data for the assessment of abuse and dependence potential, balancing medical availability and prevention of abuse of medicines manufactured from controlled substances, and improving the process for substance evaluation. The printed version of this report will become available in English and French at the WHO Bookshop and online on the web-page of this meeting. Currently, a typed
version of the report has been uploaded provisionally. The meeting
documents of the 35th ECDD are also available on this page.
Furthermore, reports of previous ECDD meetings were already on-
line.

**WHO Persisting Pain in Children Package available**

The WHO Persisting Pain in Children Package, which includes the
printed version of the WHO Guidelines on the Pharmacological
Treatment of Persisting Pain in Children with Medical Illness is now
available and may be purchased at the WHO Bookshop. Pre-ordered
copies will be dispatched in the next two weeks.

**Spanish version of the WHO policy guidelines available**

Furthermore, the Spanish version of the WHO policy guidelines
*Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances,
Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicine*,
titled *Garantizando el equilibrio en las políticas nacionales sobre
sustancias fiscalizadas, Orientación para la disponibilidad y
accesibilidad de los medicamentos fiscalizados* is now available and
may be purchased at the WHO Bookshop. Pre-ordered copies will be
dispatched in the next two weeks.

**Staffing Update**

Dr Willem Scholten will be leaving the WHO Access to Controlled
Medicines Programme on 31 October 2012. Dr. Clive Ondari,
Coordinator, Medicine Access and Rational Use will act for the
programme in the interim.

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**See also our controlled medicines website**

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