

Spotlight on Curcumin products

Curcumin, a component of turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is known for its poor solubility and absorption and hence larger doses of standard curcumin are typically needed for health benefits. This has seen several companies introduce enhanced forms of curcumin and synergistic formulations in an attempt to address the issue of bioavailability. However, this may make it difficult for consumers to compare one form of the ingredient against another and has resulted in a vast range of recommended daily dosages for similar indications and claims in the market, including claims over bioavailability and product potency.

It has been brought to CMA's attention that the TGA may conduct a listing compliance review of this category of products in the near future. Therefore, members are reminded to confirm the currency of the evidence held to support their products and claims made.

Export-only medicines: condition of listing

In 2005, the Therapeutic Goods Administration wrote to all sponsors of export-only medicines advising of a decision to impose the following condition of listing onto all export-only medicines listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG):

This product must not be supplied for sale in Australia, including supply via duty free outlets.

This restrictive condition was imposed under Section 28(3) of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*. Following the provision of this advice, each time a sponsor submitted a variation or grouping application for their export-only medicines, the TGA Export Unit also added the new condition to the ARTG entry. As not all export-only products have been varied since 2005, there remains a significant number of products whose ARTG entries do not include the above condition. Therefore, the TGA have advised that to ensure all export-only medicines include this condition it will be added to applicable ARTG entries.

Please note: This does not require any action on behalf of the relevant sponsors.

ENDS