

Technical Alert

Garcinia cambogia evaluation

Dear CHC member,

Recently the CHC advised that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) was in the process of prioritizing the evaluation of *Garcinia cambogia* (*Garcinia gummi gutta*) for use in listed medicines in Australia. As part of this evaluation, the TGA will consider data and advice provided by international regulatory counterparts.

It is understood that some sponsors regard *Garcinia quaesita* and *Garcinia cambogia* as interchangeable species for commercial purposes and historically these plants have been used in industry as medicinally interchangeable species. However, the regulator considers that they are taxonomically distinct botanical species.

Advice to the TGA from herbal expertise on the Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines (ACCM) has confirmed that The Plant List (a working list of all known plant species) is one of the most current, accurate and scientifically accepted international sources of information on plant taxonomy. The TGA has therefore adopted The Plant List (<http://www.theplantlist.org/>) as its authoritative plant classification data source.

According to The Plant List, *Garcinia gummi-gutta* is the current accepted name for *G. cambogia* and *G. quaesita* is a separate species - that is they are taxonomically distinct and not synonymous. It is however common in traditional herbal medicine practice to use species of medicinal plant for similar clinical indications where the medicinal properties are also similar. Currently it appears that there is insufficient evidence in the scientific literature, at the herbal component level, to demonstrate that these species are medicinally interchangeable.

Background - *Garcinia quaesita* is approved for use in listed medicines in Australia. The evaluation for *Garcinia gummi gutta* is expected to be completed shortly and the CHC will advise members when it has been approved for use in listed medicines.

Members are reminded that guidance on the evidence used to support listed products promoted as weight loss aids is outlined in part B of the Evidence guidelines. A copy of this document can be located via the following link: <http://www.tga.gov.au/industry/cm-evidence-listed-medicines.htm>

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