



Response to [ARM 12](#) (proposals to reclassify Galpharm Hayfever and Allergy Relief Syrup as a GSL product), from the NPA.

Response of the National Pharmaceutical Association to ARM 12

Thank you for giving the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) the opportunity to comment on consultation letter ARM 12, on proposals to reclassify Galpharm Hayfever and Allergy Relief Syrup as a GSL product, and for an additional dosage for children aged 6 to 12 years for Galpharm Hayfever and Allergy Relief tablets.

Rationale for the reclassification

The NPA does not support this proposal, as, in our view, the supply of medicines for seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms in a child should be carried out under the supervision of a pharmacist. The symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis and perennial rhinitis can be similar to those of a cold and could also be confused with symptoms of asthma in a child. In children of this age it is not appropriate for the parent or carer to diagnose which condition the child is suffering from. An atopic child could be exhibiting the first signs of asthma or seasonal asthma instead of hayfever. In the pharmacy, the patient's parent or carer would be advised about the reported symptoms and referred to the doctor if necessary. This important safety check would be lost if cetirizine were available GSL for children. Children may not receive the treatment that is appropriate for their condition.

Indications

The indication of chronic idiopathic urticaria is not appropriate for a GSL product for children. In our view, this is not a condition that could be diagnosed by the parent or carer as the symptoms are similar to several other childhood conditions such as viral infections. In a pharmacy the pharmacist is available to advise on rashes and refer when necessary.

Convenience

Due to the wide distribution of pharmacies throughout the country, many of which have extended opening hours, we believe that convenience is not a relevant consideration for reclassification.

Advertising and product information

We recommend that the product advertisements for Galpharm Hayfever and Allergy Relief state that perennial rhinitis or seasonal allergic rhinitis in a child must have been previously diagnosed by a doctor and that further advice is available from the pharmacist. Advertisements should contain a clear recommendation to read the product literature before use. These points should also be prominent on the label and in the PIL.

We hope you take our comments on board.