

COSMETIC PHYSICIANS SOCIETY of AUSTRALASIA INC



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FAO Advisory Committee on Medicine Scheduling (ACMS)
Therapeutic Goods Administration
PO Box 100
Canberra ACT 2606

15th July 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Prescribing rights for isotretinoin

The Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia (CPSA) represents the largest group of doctors with a focus on cosmetic medicine in Australia. The CPSA works to ensure that patients have safe, efficient access to treatment which is delivered in accordance with industry best practice.

The CPSA corresponded with the TGA in November 2008 regarding the limited prescribing rights of Roaccutane (isotretinoin) which, the Society believes, has a detrimental effect on the ability of patients to access appropriate treatment in a timely fashion. A recent survey of CPSA members and general practitioners confirmed that many patients suffering from acne are continuing to wait an unacceptably long time for an appointment with a dermatologist who may prescribe isotretinoin.¹

As the TGA committee members will be aware, prolonged waiting times for isotretinoin treatment increase the likelihood of permanent scarring. The associated psychological and social difficulties created for patients, particularly teens, often compounds the emotional fragility during this period of their lives. The development of scars can lead to further expense for these patients in the future, if corrections are sought.

The CPSA is aware of concerns over the management of possible side-effects of isotretinoin, including depression and birth defects. There are many medical practitioners who manage patients suffering from acne. They initiate treatment, manage the contraceptive choices as well as the associated mental health issues faced by these patients. The CPSA believes those practitioners who can demonstrate adequate additional training should have the ability to prescribe isotretinoin.

In the United Kingdom, the Post-Graduate Diploma of Practical Dermatology offered by Cardiff University is accredited training for isotretinoin prescribing. To allay possible concerns over management of the side-effects, the CPSA – in partnership with Cardiff University, e-Media and Family Planning NSW – has developed a dedicated training course open to all interested and motivated medical practitioners.²

The CPSA Acne Training Course incorporates a two-day residential weekend, focussing specifically on all aspects of acne management (anxiety and mood disorders, contraception and the pathophysiology of acne), complemented by the acne management training module of the Cardiff University Diploma (of one month's duration). The CPSA feels that the completion of the two-day residential course, together with the Cardiff University Acne Management Certificate via distance learning, will be appropriate for practitioners in Australia to prescribe isotretinoin in a safe and effective manner.

The CPSA believes that this route offers a workable solution which will help overcome the waiting periods encountered by patients across the country, enabling them to receive treatment more quickly, safe in the knowledge that the prescribing doctor has undergone dedicated training in relation to acne, its management and the potential side-effects of such management with special reference to isotretinoin.

In addition, the CPSA requests that the ACMS formally recognises the successful completion of the CPSA Acne Management Course, convened by the CPSA in partnership with Cardiff University, e-Media and Family Planning NSW, as an appropriate standard of education for medical prescribing rights for isotretinoin.

I enclose a copy of the course outline for the CPSA Acne Training Course for your information and would be happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Regards



Dr G M Caswell

President

BSc (NTU), BSc (ECU), MB;BS (QLD), BA (UNE)

Dip. Practical Dermatology (Cardiff, Wales)

¹ CPSA, April 2010.

² Continuing Medical Education points pending

Enc.

CPSA
Acne Training Course
11th-12th September 2010

Aim: To provide three cardinal training outcomes related to the management of acne: Mood Disorders and Depression, Contraception and Disease Management.

The CPSA has joined with three education providers to ensure delivery of an outstanding, acne specific, disease management program.

Black Dog Institute

6-hr Workshops on Mood Disorders

Demystifying Depression: Managing Depression in General Practice

This 6-hour program provides practitioners with an understanding of the Black Dog Institute's model of depression, as well as the necessary tools to manage consultation with patients who present with depression, and the skills to create a Mental Health Treatment Plan. Also discussed are pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies for managing depression.

[Provides Cat 1 40 QA & CPD and MHST \(Mental Health Skills Training\)](#)

NSW Family Planning

NSWFP will provide an intensive one day course concerning contraceptive choices. This will include a short MCQ to complete this part of the training.

Department of Dermatology, Cardiff University

Cardiff University will provide training concerning the pathophysiology and treatment of acne.

The certificate course will be online, and over a period of one month. It will include case studies, peer interactive sessions and a short MCQ to complete the certificate.

A CPSA certificate of attendance will be forwarded to successful applicants once all three parts of the course are completed.

Information for applicants

To be awarded the CPSA attendance certificate all three parts of the course will need to be completed, with successful pass mark obtained in those parts of the course that have testing.

Cardiff University will communicate with the CPSA the progress of students. Enrolment in the Cardiff University Acne Management Certificate is directly with the university; they will confirm your eligibility to enrol with the CPSA.

This course does not qualify the individual to prescribe Isotretinoin, but is intended to up skill those doctors who manage patients with acne.

Attendance at the training weekend is mandatory to complete the course and be awarded the attendance certificate.

You will need to be a medically registered practitioner with general registration in the state or territory which you work. The course is open to all levels of medical practitioners, including training registrars.

How to enrol

- Download an application form from the CPSA website.
- Complete the form and make payment to the CPSA for the training weekend, payment is for tuition and social events only. Accommodation and travel costs are the responsibility of the applicant.
- The CPSA will then inform Cardiff University of your eligibility status, you will then be able to enrol in the certificate course directly with Cardiff University.
- Places are limited.
- Financial CPSA members attract a \$100 discount on the cost of the training weekend.

Application forms can be found on the CPSA website www.cosmeticphysicians.org.au

Training weekend

The training weekend will be held on 11th - 12th September, 2010 (inclusive) at the. [TBC]

Costs

- Cardiff University Certificate in Acne Management \$250.00 (AUD)
- CPSA Acne Management Training Weekend, \$550.00 inclusive of social engagements, and \$450 for financial members of the CPSA (must be financial at time of enrolment).

CPSA
Acne Training Course
11th-12th September 2010

Name of applicant

Address

Date of Birth

Year of general medical registration

State

Enrol me in the CPSA Acne Training Course

Cost

I am a financial CPSA member at time of enrolment	Yes	No	\$450.00
I am not a member of the CPSA at time of enrolment	Yes	No	\$550.00

I understand to obtain my certificate of attendance I must complete the training weekend and the Cardiff University Acne Management Certificate

Yes No

I understand that it is my responsibility to enrol directly with Cardiff University to complete the Acne Management Certificate

Yes No

The CPSA will inform Cardiff University that it has accepted you for the course

Payment Authority (Visa, Mastercard, Bankcard)

I authorise the following amount \$_____ to be deducted from my credit card as payment for the training weekend.

Card Type:

Card Number _____ Exp. Date. ___/___ CCV # _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Proof of your Medical Registration must accompany your application

Fax to CPSA 08 9402 4820

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