



VETERINARY BOARD OF TASMANIA

ABN : 55 607 484 153

PO Box 909
SANDY BAY TAS 7006

Phone 03 6223 8071

Fax 03 6223 1307 Email vbt@netspace.net.au

Alprazolam Fact Sheet for Veterinary Surgeons

In response to the increasing illicit use of alprazolam and evidence of physical and psychological symptoms of alprazolam dependence, alprazolam is to be up-scheduled from Schedule 4 to Schedule 8 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP) on 1 February 2014.

Consequently alprazolam will become a Schedule 8 drug (Controlled Drug) in the Tasmanian Poisons List as of 1 February 2014.

The up-scheduling of alprazolam to Schedule 8 will apply to all forms and preparations of alprazolam. Currently available alprazolam branded products include: *Alprax, Alprazolam Sandoz, Alprazolam-GA, Chemmart Alprazolam, GenRx Alprazolam, Kalma, Ralozam, Terry White Chemists Alprazolam*, and *Xanax* tablets.

From **1 February 2014**, as a result of this scheduling amendment, veterinary surgeons registered in Tasmania will need to store, handle and record all alprazolam products as a Schedule 8 preparation; noting in particular:

- Alprazolam, as is the case with all drugs of dependence, must be stored in a S8 safe that is securely fixed to the premises and kept locked when not in immediate use. The intention is that this safe should be accessed only to obtain drugs of dependence and only a vet may hold the key.
- The *Poisons Regulations 2008* require that a separate S8 drug register page is kept for each S8 substance and strength. This means that a new register entry is to be made for Alprazolam currently held or obtained in the future. A register must be kept at each premise at which the S8 drugs are stored.
- As is the case with other S8s, an entry must be made in the S8 drug register to record the receipt, supply or use of alprazolam as soon as practicable after such a transaction takes place and no later than 48 hours after the event.
- All other requirements for S8s will now apply to alprazolam, for example, labelling, prescription requirements, destruction and loss.

For further information, clarification or advice please do not hesitate to contact Pharmaceutical Services Branch, Department of Health and Human Services on (03) 6233 2064