COSMETIC PHYSICIANS COLLEGE OF AUSTRALASIA

CPCA MEDIA RELEASE

1ST February 2025 - Update

In December 2024, Queensland Health released a fact sheet titled:
"Medicines in beauty treatment/cosmetic businesses" - Click to read full statement

This document outlines and clarifies the regulations in Queensland regarding the prescribing, administration, purchase, supply, and storage of S4 cosmetic injectables. It has sparked significant discussion within the CPCA and among other stakeholders in the aesthetics field.

Tragically, since our media update, there have been reports of three individuals in NSW being hospitalized with botulism allegedly due to the use of an unregulated product, with one person reportedly in ICU. This is a tragedy that should never have occurred. When TGA approved products are supplied by Australian distributors to appropriately trained and authorized healthcare professionals, botulinum toxin is associated with very few unexpected adverse events. However, the use of botulinum toxin and other S4 substances constitutes a medical procedure, not a beauty treatment. Cosmetic medicine is real medicine and must not be trivialized. Consumers are urged check on the qualifications of the healthcare professional providing aesthetic treatments and ensure that they are appropriately trained to perform the procedure.

CPCA Members and Fellows are required to undertake continuous professional development to ensure that their knowledge is up to date. The CPCA is committed to supporting consumer education to empower individuals to make informed treatment choices. We emphasize the importance of seeking care from appropriately trained professionals who adhere to established guidelines, ensuring patient safety remains the highest priority.

These tragic cases underscore the critical importance of adhering to the laws and regulations governing the use of S4 substances. Proper training, sourcing, and administration of these products can prevent such avoidable outcomes. It is essential for everyone working in aesthetics to comply with the relevant laws, guidelines, and regulations.

The CPCA's goal has always been to foster education, maintain standards, and improve safety. We welcome statements from regulators that provide clarity on guidelines, regulations, and laws. The Queensland Health fact sheet offers timely guidance, and we urge all members to review the regulations ensuring that their Practices comply.

The Board would like to remind our members of the importance of remaining compliant with AHPRA, TGA, and state regulations. This is particularly relevant for members with nursing staff or those providing supervision for nurses. The CPCA remains committed to supporting its members through ongoing education, workshops, and resources to help them navigate these regulations effectively.

We encourage all professionals in the aesthetics field, regardless of affiliation, to uphold the same high standards of safety and compliance.

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