Clinical Safety Alert

ACT Government

Monday 02 November 2026

Unapproved Peptide Products: Emerging Risks and Reporting

Distribution for action:
Directors, managers and clinical staff in:

- Emergency Departments
- Outpatient settings
- Urgent Care Centres
- General Practices
- Pharmacy services
- Community health services
- Medication safety leads

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Links:
TGA Alert
QLD Health Alert
Medical Board of Australia guidance
Vic Health Alert
NSW Health Alert

The ACT Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) is alerting healthcare professionals to the risk of serious harm associated with unapproved peptide products. This alert provides advice on recognising suspected adverse effects, safe prescribing and reporting suspected from harm and unlawful supply.

Situation:

Australian regulators and health departments have reported serious adverse effects associated with unapproved peptide products, including liver injury, several allergic reactions and other complications requiring hospital treatment. Counterfeit products containing different ingredients or strengths from those advertised have also been reported.

Recommendations/ Actions

Health services and healthcare professionals should:

- Specifically ask patients about peptide use during medication history-taking, including products obtained online, through social media or informal suppliers. Remember patients may not consider these products medicines or may be reluctant to disclose their use.
- Review local procedures for recognising, managing and reporting suspected adverse effects. Where products are retained for possible investigation, seek advice on storage, labelling and testing arrangements.
- Advise patients using unapproved peptide products obtained online or through informal suppliers about the potential dangers associated with their use.
- Treat suspected adverse effects and seek toxicology advice as needed.
- If the patient is being treated in the community and has a severe reaction, arrange urgent transfer to hospital.
- Report suspected adverse events through the local incident reporting system, where applicable, and to the TGA through its adverse-event reporting portal.

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- Report suspected unlawful supply, importation or advertising through the TGA's Report a breach page.
- Comply with Ahpra and National Board guidance on prescribing. Patient demand alone is not a sufficient reason to prescribe.
- Table this Clinical Safety Alert at your local Medication Advisory Committee/Medication Safety Committee or equivalent for consider local measures to promote awareness of the issues discussed in this alert.

Background

Unapproved peptide products are often promoted through social media, fitness and wellness networks, anti-ageing clinics and other unregulated channels. Many are marketed using claims relating to weight loss, muscle growth, recovery, anti-ageing, cognitive enhancement or general wellbeing.

Some peptide medicines are approved in Australia and will be listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). If they are not listed on the ARTG there may be limited lawful access for defined circumstances. Access does not mean the product has been approved by the TGA. Unapproved peptide products have not been assessed by the TGA for safety, quality or effectiveness. Consumers and healthcare professionals cannot be assured that these products:

- contain the ingredients listed on the label
- are manufactured to an acceptable quality standard
- are free from contamination
- are supplied or stored appropriately

Examples of products or advertised ingredients of concern include BPC-157, CJC-1295, AOD-9604, TB-500, Melanotan I and II, Retatrutide.

What is the ACT HCSD doing?

The ACT HCSD is distributing this alert to support awareness, clinical recognition and reporting of harms associated with unapproved peptide products. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to share this alert with clinician colleagues.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

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