Drug Status Report

Drug: Benzodiazepine related substances

Drug Name Status:

(I) 2-Hydroxyethylflurazepam

(II) 4'-Hydroxynordiazepam

(III) 7-Aminoclonazepam

(IV) 7-Aminonitrazepam

(V) n-Ethylnordiazepam

The above names are all common names.

Chemical Name:

(I) 7-Chloro-1-[2-hydroxyethyl]-5-(o-fluorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

(II) 7-Chloro-1,3-dihydro-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

(III) 7-Amino-5-(o-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

(IV) 7-Amino-1,3-dihydro-5-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one)

(V) 7-Chloro-1,3-dihydro-1-ethyl-5-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

Chemical structure:

Molecular Formula: (I) C₁₇H₁₄ClFN₂O₂

(II) $C_{15}H_{11}ClN_2O_2$

(III) $C_{15}H_{12}ClN_3O$

(IV) $C_{15}H_{13}N_3O$

 $(V) C_{17}H_{15}ClN_2O_2$

Pharmacological class / Application: pharmaceutical related substance

International status:

US: The substances are not currently listed on the US Controlled Substances Act and are not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: The substances are not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control nor the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control.

Canadian Status: The substances are not currently listed specifically on the CDSA. Item 18 of Schedule IV to the CDSA is, "Benzodiazepines, their salts and derivatives". With the exception of brotizolam, the benzodiazepines have a characteristic core structural feature. Two variations of the characteristic feature are shown below.

Based on the molecular structure of the five benzodiazepine related substances, they are benzodiadepines and therefore included in item 18 of Schedule IV.

This rationale was previously used in recommending that two alprazolan analogues (report - Alprazolam analogues, August 22, 2007), three triazolam related substances (Triazolam related substances, September 23, 2007) and another series of benzodiazepine related compounds (report - 5-Phenyl-7-chloro-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepine-2H-2-one N, July 28, 2005) be considered to be included in item 18 of Schedule IV.

Recommendation: Substances 1-V are included in item 18 of Schedule IV to the CDSA and are controlled substances.

May 5, 2008