Drug Status Report

Drug: Ethamivan

Drug Name Status: Ethamivan is the common name

Chemical Name: 3-methoxy-4-hydroxybenzoic acid diethylamide

Other Names: N,N-diethyl-4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-benzamide; N,N-diethyl-vanillamide; Etamivan

Chemical structure:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CH}_3 \\
\text{O} \\
\text{HO} \\
\end{array} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{N} \\
\text{CH}_3 \\
\text{CH}_3 \\
\end{array} \\
\end{array}
\]

Molecular Formula: C\(_{12}\)H\(_{17}\)NO\(_3\)

Pharmacological class / Application: Respiratory analeptic

International status:

US: Ethamivan is not listed on the schedules to the CSA and is not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: The substance is 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: Ethamivan is a respiratory analeptic drug which has been shown to produce stimulative effects on the respiratory centre and central nervous system\(^1\)\(^2\). Ethamivan has mainly been for the treatment of chronic respiratory diseases\(^3\) but has also been used for the treatment of


barbiturate overdose\textsuperscript{4}. However, recent clinical uses of ethamivan does not appear to be prevalent. There is one report in the literature where ethamivan is considered to be a substance of abuse\textsuperscript{5} but the substance is not listed specifically in the CDSA and is not structurally similar to any of the substances in the Schedules to the CDSA.

Recommendation: Ethamivan is not included in any of the Schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

January 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2010


\textsuperscript{5}Ma, C et al. (1998) Studies on analytical method for 10 drugs of abuse in urine using HPLC, Yaoxue Xuebao, 33:764-767.