

## **Addendum to ACMD's report on synthetic cannabinoids**

On 27 November 2014 the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) provided advice to the Minister for Crime Prevention on third generation synthetic cannabinoids.

The ACMD recommends an amendment to the generic definition in the report, to exempt (i) clonitazene and etonitazene, as these are already listed by name, as Class A drugs in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; (ii) the medicine known as zafirlukast (cyclopentyl 3-{2-methoxy-4-[(2-methylphenylsulfonyl)carbonyl]phenylmethyl}-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)carbamate), which is the active ingredient of the licensed medicinal product Accolate and was unintentionally caught by the proposed generic definition.

### **Revised paragraph 8.1**

The ACMD recommends the following definition to be used in addition to the existing cannabinoid generic definitions (and would then specifically exclude compounds already within the scope of the existing generic definitions):

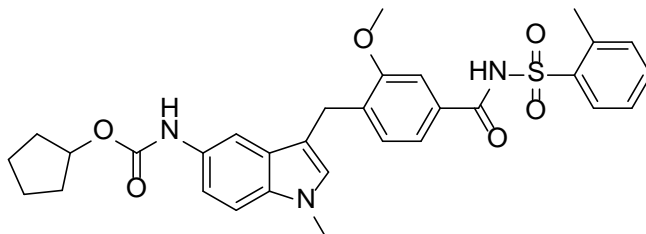
“Any compound (not being clonitazene, etonitazene, zafirlukast, or a compound for the time being specified in subparagraph (c) above) structurally related to 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthyl)indole (JWH-018), in that the four sub-structures, that is to say the indole ring, the pentyl substituent, the methanone linking group and the naphthyl ring, are linked together in a similar manner, whether or not any of the sub-structures have been modified, and whether or not substituted in any of the linked sub-structures with one or more univalent substituents and where the modifications of the sub-structures are limited to any the following, that is to say:

- i. replacement of the indole ring with indane, indene, indazole, pyrrole, pyrazole, imidazole, benzimidazole, or pyrazolo(3,4-b)pyridine;
- ii. replacement of the pentyl substituent with alkyl, alkenyl, benzyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, (*N*-methylpiperidin-2-yl)methyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, or (tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl;
- iii. replacement of the methanone linking group with an ethanone, carboxamide, carboxylate, methylene bridge or methine group;
- iv. replacement of the 1-naphthyl ring with 2-naphthyl, phenyl, benzyl, adamantyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylmethyl, cycloalkylethyl, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 1-amino-1-oxopropan-2-yl, 1-hydroxy-1-oxopropan-2-yl, or piperazinyl.”

### **Revised paragraph 9.1**

“The existing generic definitions are now well established and familiar to those who need to refer to the Misuse of Drugs Act and therefore the preferred option would be to add to the existing legislation rather than replace or modify it. The proposed generic definition therefore includes an exception for those synthetic cannabinoids already controlled by the existing generic definition;

together with two compounds clonitazine and etonitazene, which fall within the proposed generic definition but are already Class A controlled drugs, and the medicine known as zafirlukast, which is the active ingredient of the licensed medicinal product Accolate”



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