SPECIALIST
TREATMENT
EDUCATION &
RESEARCH

SKIN HEALTH INSTITUTE

Dear Doctor,

Re: **Safety advisory – Bufexamac no longer to be sold in Australia due to the risk of serious skin reactions**

I am writing to bring to your immediate attention that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has determined that as of last Friday, 18 September 2020, products containing **bufexamac** can no longer be sold in Australia.

Such over-the-counter products – for example, the topical cream Medi Quattro – will be removed from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Associate Professor Rosemary Nixon, Dermatologist and President of the Skin Health Institute, has long argued that bufexamac is associated with a risk of allergic contact dermatitis, and advocated that it should be banned, as it has been in many other nations, for use in Australia.

"My concern is that bufexamac causes really severe allergic reactions, which has led to a number of people being hospitalised," she says. As *A Current Affair* reported earlier this week, when hospitalised, patients with severe reactions often spend days in hospital, receiving treatment similar to that of burns victims. There can also be long-lasting sensitivities, such as heightened allergies.

Many topical ointments and creams contain bufexamac, but Associate Professor Nixon warns that it is also contained in other products, including those commonly found in household First Aid kits.

We are thankful for Associate Professor Nixon's tireless work on this issue. Australian patients are safer for her efforts.

We request that you ask your patients to look for any products containing bufexamac in their medical cabinets and to dispose of them immediately.

Yours in health,

Caroline Mulcahy
Chief Executive Officer
Skin Health Institute

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