

13 October 2006

**MHRA MLX312 National Rules Scheme for Homeopathic Medicines – The Institute of Clinical Research makes a comment**

Although the consultation of the above has already closed, ICR is issuing a statement with regards to the implementation of the National Rules Scheme for homeopathic medicines.

The new regulations go some way to ensure that homeopathic medicines are regulated to a similar extent as conventional medicine with respect to evidence of safety and efficacy and manufacturing.

Some would argue that it is unacceptable to have products on the market that have no efficacy or safety data as per the pre 1971 products with Product License of Right (PLRs). There also seems to be a less rigorous approach to homeopathic medicine when compared with herbal medicines. On the positive side, we seem to have taken a step towards requiring evidence of efficacy and safety for all medicines.

However, if homeopathic treatments work and are safe it behoves us to demonstrate this using clinical trials. The reluctance of the manufacturers of homeopathic treatments to introduce clinical trials indicates that they have insufficient faith in their products to test them.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. John Hooper  
Chief Executive

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