

Media release

Condition imposed to restrict the compounding of medicines at Willby's Compounding Pharmacy

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The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) today has placed a condition on the premises registration of Willby's Compounding Pharmacy restricting the compounding and supply of complex compounded medicines intended for treatment of paediatric patients. This includes the 'Willby's Wind and Colic Mix' and any other colic remedies.

The condition placed on the premises registration of Willby's Compounding Pharmacy was as a direct result of the VPA's investigation, which identified failures of good pharmacy practice relating to the compounding of medicines. Compounding is when a trained health professional, usually a pharmacist, makes a medicine using raw ingredients.

The VPA's decision was informed by a VPA investigation of the pharmacy and multiple safety alerts issued by the TGA (4 July 2024) and other states and territories about compounded colic preparations containing Atropa belladonna.

David McConville, Chairperson of the VPA said, "Our decision to restrict the compounding of medicines at Willby's Compounding Pharmacy has not been made lightly, and we are resolute in our decision that we have acted to keep infants in Australia safe.

"Our message to parents and carers is to follow the guidance of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) - consult a medical practitioner before giving a compounded colic preparation containing belladonna to an infant".

The VPA imposed the condition to prevent a serious risk to public health and safety and may review the condition after specified requirements have been met by the pharmacy. We clarify that the VPA decision does not prevent Willby's Compounding Pharmacy from carrying on a pharmacy business.

For further safety advice, refer to the TGA's Safety Alert issued 4 July 2024 -

www.tga.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/compounded-colic-preparations-containing-atropa-belladonna