

Date: November 20, 2008

Subject: DRC Recommendations to DCC and DHS

To: DHS, DCC, Dean's Office

From: Henry F. Simmons, Jr., MD, Ph.D.
Chairman DRC

At its meeting today, the Drug Review Committee considered the potential toxicity and therapeutic roles of newer sedative hypnotic agents for adults and children with insomnia.

Newer sedative hypnotic agents under consideration include the following:

Eszopiclone [Lunesta]
Ramelteon [Rozarem]
Zaleplon [Sonata]
Zolpidem [Ambien and Ambien CR]

Based upon the bulk of the best available evidence pertaining to the aforementioned agents the Committee concluded the following:

The agents do not differ in terms of either safety considerations or frequency of adverse events to the extent that one or more should be excluded from consideration.

At least two of the agents should be available.

With the exception of eszopiclone, which may be of special benefit relative to zolpidem and ramelteon for patients over 65 years of age, none of the agents otherwise appear to be associated with either special benefits or special risks on the basis of demographics.

Henry F. Simmons, Jr.
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