



**- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -**

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## **ADVICE TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS REGARDING MELAMINE CONTAMINATION OF WHITE RABBIT**

### **Creamy Candy**

This alert is to notify medical practitioners that the "White Rabbit Creamy Candy" brand of confectionary has potentially been contaminated with a toxic chemical substance, Melamine.

It has not been confirmed that Candy contaminated with Melamine has been distributed to Australian consumers. This notice is being provided on a precautionary basis to assist with identifying cases of toxicity which might occur.

### **Product Description**

White Rabbit Creamy Candy is an individually wrapped dairy confectionary which comes loose in bags displaying a large white rabbit.

### **Melamine contamination of White Rabbit Creamy Candy**

Melamine is a toxic industrial chemical which is thought to have been added to milk products produced in China. Contaminated milk has been used to manufacture confectionaries which have then been exported.

White Rabbit Creamy Candy sold in Singapore and New Zealand has been found to contain potentially dangerous levels of Melamine.

White Rabbit Creamy Candy may have been purchased in an Asian-food store or incidentally consumed at an Asian restaurant.

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ), the Australian Food Regulator, is currently investigating whether White Rabbit Creamy Candy available in Australia has also been contaminated with Melamine.

### **Toxicity of Melamine.**

Melamine is not metabolised rapidly and is excreted in urine. Melamine concentrated in urine can result in inflammation of the bladder and the formation of kidney or bladder stones.

Symptoms of Melamine toxicity observed in children exposed to contaminated dairy products include unexplained crying, especially when urinating, vomiting, haematuria, oliguria or anuria, flank pain and stones in urine.

### **Management of patients with suspected Melamine toxicity.**

A child who has a history of consuming White Rabbit Creamy Candy or spending time in China, **and displays signs/symptoms of potential toxicity** should be referred to a hospital with paediatric facilities for assessment.

### **Further information.**

Information on Melamine contamination is available on the World Health Organisation website at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety>

Additional information is available from Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/>

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*Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.*

**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT**