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MEDIA RELEASE

RESPONSE TO CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT GLUCOSAMINE ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

A media report in Adelaide today has raised concerns regarding the impact of the complementary medicine, Glucosamine, on women who are trying to conceive.

Mr Jonathan Breach, the Regulatory Manager responsible for Complementary Medicines with the Australian Self-Medication Industry said the report contained serious misrepresentations.

The report quotes a medical researcher and makes a number of claims regarding the product, which are highly questionable or incorrect.

The article states that Glucosamine, a natural remedy for treatment of osteoarthritis “is found in energy drinks, vitamin supplements and some herbal teas...”.

While contained in some supplements, glucosamine is not approved for use in food products and is therefore unlikely to be found in energy drinks or herbal teas regulated as foods in Australia.

The article also states that: “Glucosamine is not regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.”

This is not correct. Glucosamine is regulated as a complementary medicine by the TGA and must comply with a rigorous set of rules covering quality, safety, efficacy, labelling, presentation and advertising.

The researcher is quoted as saying that many people “won’t realise they are taking the supplement...”

It is quite unrealistic and misleading to suggest that Glucosamine could be taken by accident in the form of energy drinks, supplements and herbal teas and that this could place people at risk.

Labelling regulations for medicines require any product that contains Glucosamine to have this clearly identified on the label. Furthermore, the product is more likely to be used by older consumers, well beyond child-bearing age, who take the product to assist with protecting osteoarthritic joints from further deterioration. The concerns over the use in women trying to conceive are therefore misplaced.

Glucosamine is a natural product, often made from shellfish, and has been shown to be effective in treating osteoarthritis and joint pain.



AUSTRALIAN SELF-MEDICATION INDUSTRY

BETTER HEALTH THROUGH RESPONSIBLE SELF-CARE

Media Contact: Bob Bowden (02) 9241 2811 or 0412 753 298

About ASMI:

The Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) is the 'one voice' for the entire non-prescription consumer healthcare products industry. ASMI represents companies involved in the manufacture and distribution of non-prescription consumer healthcare products and companies involved in the provision of a variety of support services to manufacturers.

ASMI strives to ensure that safe and effective self-care products are readily available to all Australians at an affordable price; encourages responsible use of product by consumers and participation in their own healthcare; promotes an increasing role for cost-effective self-medication products as part of the overall Australian health strategy; and provides an authoritative voice for the consumer healthcare products industry as the acknowledged point of consultation for government, regulators, consumer organisations, professional organisations and other stakeholders.