



Factsheet 3

USE OF MEDICINES CONTAINING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**Increased global consumption of methylphenidate**

The Board notes the increased global consumption of methylphenidate, a stimulant which is primarily used in the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and is included in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. This increased consumption may be attributable to various factors, such as the increase in the number of patients who are diagnosed with ADHD, a widening of the age group of patients likely to be prescribed methylphenidate, a lack of proper medical guidelines for the prescription of methylphenidate and the influential commercial and marketing practices of the manufacturers of pharmaceutical preparations containing methylphenidate. The Board also notes that prescription drugs containing methylphenidate are abused by a growing number of teenagers and young adults.

The Board encourages all Governments to monitor developments in the diagnosis of ADHD and other behavioural disorders, and the extent to which methylphenidate is prescribed for their treatment, as well as to ensure that prescribing follows sound medical practice. Similarly, Governments are encouraged to ensure that the prohibition on the advertising of such substances to the general public, as set forth in the 1971 Convention, is upheld.