

Media Information

For immediate use



28 September 2011

Health alert – co-codamol tablets

A health alert is being issued in Borders in relation to the misuse of co-codamol tablets.

This follow reports that co-codamol is being bought in large quantities with the intention of separating its ingredients for ingestion. This creates potentially serious health risks for the individuals who do this.

Dr Eric Baijal, Joint Director of Public Health for NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council, said: “Co-codamol 8/500 tablets contain small quantities of codeine and larger doses of paracetamol. Worryingly some people have been reported trying to separate the paracetamol and codeine by dissolving and filtering and then drinking this. By doing this you are placing yourself at risk of a paracetamol overdose, which is potentially very serious, even fatal. It can present very late, after irreparable damage has been done to the body.

“If you or anyone you know has tried this with co-codamol tablets you should seek immediate medical attention and encourage those who you know have done it to do the same. Please contact your GP even if you are feeling well.”

For general enquiries regarding drug misuse contact the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership on 01896 825566, or visit: www.badp.scot.nhs.uk

Contacts:

For further information, contact Public Involvement & Communications on 01896 825589 or 825520