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Sanco-sc6-secretariat
European Commission
Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General
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Public consultation on a preliminary opinion on hydrogen peroxide in tooth whitening products – SCCP/0844/04

The National Board of Health and Welfare has reviewed the preliminary opinion of SCCP on hydrogen peroxide in tooth whitening products.

In essence, the Board finds the preliminary conclusions of the SCCP warranted.

In Sweden, the use of tooth whitening products, including those with concentrations well above 0.1% hydrogen peroxide or equivalents, continues to increase rapidly, in particular outside dentistry and among young people.

As there is a lack of safety data, this development may, if unchallenged, entail a threat to public health and to the dental health of many citizens.

Accordingly, there is a need to obtain more data concerning safety, e.g. concerning repeated use in young people over longer periods of time. In the absence of such data precautionary measures should be instituted to safeguard public health.

The Board recognises that such actions must be based on firm scientific grounds. However, the paucity of safety data concerning higher concentrations of 0.1% hydrogen peroxide or equivalents has been sufficiently demonstrated to motivate institution of precautionary actions.

Such actions should be initiated on a community level. Until community actions have been instituted, Member States may be necessitated to take actions on their own.

The final opinion of the Scientific Committee should be made available as soon as possible in order not to further delay the institution of actions to safeguard public health.

On behalf of the National Board of Health and Welfare,
Yours sincerely,

Agneta Ekman
Chief Dental Officer, DDS, Odont.Dr.

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Appendices
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