

(q) "Narcotic Drug" shall mean any of the following, whether produced directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of vegetable origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis; and which have been found to present an extreme danger to the health and welfare of the community because of their addiction-forming and [addictive] addiction sustaining liabilities:

(i) "opiate" [which] shall mean any [dangerous] substance having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having such addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability. *It does not include, unless specifically designated as controlled under Section 278 of this subheading, the dextrorotatory isomer of 3-methoxy-n-methyl-morphion and its salts (dextromethorphon). MORPHINAN AND ITS SALTS (DEXTROMETHORPHAN).* *It does include its racemic and levorotatory forms;* and [the] "opium poppy" which shall mean the plant of the species *Papaver somniferum* L., except the seeds thereof, and [the] "poppy straw" which shall mean all parts, except the seeds, of the opium poppy, after mowing; and "coca leaves" which shall mean cocaine and any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of coca leaves, except derivatives of coca leaves which do not contain cocaine, ecgonine or substances from which cocaine or ecgonine may be synthesized or made;

(ii) A compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, or preparation of opium, coca leaves, or opiates;

(iii) A substance and any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, or preparation thereof which is chemically identical with any of the substances referred to in clauses [(1)] (i) and [(2)] (ii), except that the words "narcotic drug" as used in this [section] include decocainized coca leaves or extracts of coca leaves, which extracts do not contain cocaine or ecgonine.

(t) "Practitioner" shall mean one of the following:

(1) *A physician, dentist, veterinarian, scientific investigator, or other person licensed, registered or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to or administer a controlled dangerous substance in the course of professional practice or research in this State.*

(a) "physician" shall mean any person authorized by law to practice medicine in this State.

(b) "dentist" and "veterinarian" shall mean any person authorized by law to practice dentistry or veterinary medicine in this State.

(2) *A pharmacy, laboratory, hospital or other institution licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to or to administer a controlled dangerous substance in the course of professional practice or research in the State.*

(a) "hospital" shall mean an institution for the care and treatment of the sick and injured approved by the Department of Health, State of Maryland, as proper to be entrusted with the custody of controlled dangerous substances under the direction of a physician, dentist, or veterinarian [, or "scientific investigator," "pharmacy," laboratory, or other persons licensed, registered, or otherwise