

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Temporary Authority – Supply by pharmacists of medicines without prescription) CHO Standing Order 2020 (No 2)

made under the

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008, section 20(b)

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, section 70

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Authority for pharmacists to supply restricted medicines) CHO Standing Order 2020 (No 2)*.

2 Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Temporary Authority – Supply by pharmacists of designated Schedule 4 medicines without prescription) CHO Standing Order 2020 (No 1)*.

3 Commencement and Duration

This instrument commences on the day of signing and remains in force for the period ending on the day the declared emergency (as extended or further extended) ends, unless it is earlier revoked.

4 Standing Order to prevent or mitigate a public health emergency

The ACT has declared a public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 represents a risk to the supply of medicines as prescriptions may not be able to be issued in some circumstances as an indirect result of the pandemic.

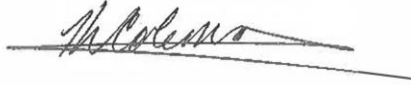
Mechanisms exist under the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 for prescriptions to be issued remotely; including oral, faxed or electronic prescriptions. Given the potential scale of the public health emergency and risk of prescriber capacity being exceeded which may result in some patients being unable to remotely access prescriptions for essential medicines, this CHO Standing Order is made to prevent or mitigate any resulting public health harms.

To remove beyond doubt, the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 authorises an approved¹ pharmacist to supply a designated prescription only medicine without a prescription in accordance with a continued dispensing determination under the *National Health Act 1953*. This Standing Order therefore serves to enable the emergency supply of a defined quantity of a designated prescription only medicine where not captured by a continued dispensing determination.

¹ Approved under section 84(1) of the *National Health Act 1953*

5 Standing Order terms and conditions

Pursuant to this CHO Standing Order, pharmacists are authorised to supply a person with a designated prescription only medicine² without a prescription subject to conditions in Schedule 1 of this Standing Order.



Dr Kerry Coleman
Chief Health Officer
1 April 2020

Schedule 1

1. The pharmacist is satisfied that:
 - a. the person is undergoing treatment essential to the person's well-being,
 - b. the medicine has previously been prescribed for the treatment,
 - c. the person is in immediate need of the medicine for continuation of the treatment, and
 - d. it is not practicable for the person to obtain a prescription (including telephone, faxed or electronic prescription) for the medicine from an authorised practitioner.
2. A designated prescription only medicine may only be supplied under this authority if the quantity supplied is no more than:
 - a. for a medicine that is on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the standard Pharmaceutical Benefits maximum quantity, or
 - b. for a medicine that is not on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the quantity that is contained in the smallest standard pack in which the medicine is generally available.
3. A written record³ of the following information is to be retained:
 - a. the pharmacist's name;
 - b. the name of the prescriber who would ordinarily have prescribed the medicine,
 - c. the patient's name and address;
 - d. the date the medicine is supplied;
 - e. the medicine's approved name and brand name;
 - f. the form, strength and quantity of the medicine.
4. The supplied medicine must have a label that includes the following information:
 - a. the name of the person to whom the medicine is to be supplied;
 - b. the date the medicine is supplied;

²Pursuant to Section 250 of the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 a **designated prescription only medicine** means a prescription only medicine other than:

- a) an anabolic steroid; and
- b) a designated appendix D medicine; and
- c) a benzodiazepine.

³ **Written** includes in electronic form.

- c. the medicine, and the form, strength and quantity of the medicine, supplied;
- d. if the package of the dispensed medicine is not a manufacturer's pack—
 - i. the batch number or numbers of the medicine; and
 - ii. the relevant expiry date for the medicine;
- e. the pharmacy name, business address and telephone number;
- f. the initials or other identification of the pharmacist supplying the medicine;
- g. directions about the use of the medicine that are adequate to allow the medicine to be taken or administered safely, including any warning statement in the medicines and poisons standard, appendix K (Drugs required to be labelled with a sedation warning) applying to the medicine;
- h. words to the effect of 'keep out of reach of children'.