Department of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES - PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES BRANCH

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PHARMACISTS' "READY REFERENCE" FOR PRESCRIPTIONS October 2019

SUMMARY ONLY

Links to the Poisons Act 1971 (the 'Act') and Poisons Regulations 2018 can be found at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/psbtas/legislation_links



	SCHEDULE 4 – Restricted Substances		SCHEDULE 8 – Narcotic Substances	
	S4 General	S4D Specified Psychotropic Substances and Declared Restricted Substances	S8 Opioids, flunitrazepam and alprazolam	Psychostimulants Dexamfetamine, methylphenidate, and lisdexamfetamine
Medical Practitioner (Defined in Section 3 of the 'Act')	Any medical practitioner registered with <u>AHPRA</u>	The Medical Practitioner must be present and practising in Tasmania. For a repeat, the interval must be endorsed R.45(5)(a)(vii) (NB: see Repeat Intervals overleaf)	The Medical Practitioner must be present and practising in Tasmania. Repeats allowed R.20(7)(a)(iv) Interval must be endorsed R.27(4)-(6) Repeats to be retained where first dispensed R.27(2) Authority required from DoH before supply of items listed under R.24	The Medical Practitioner must be present and practising in Tasmania. Repeats allowed R.20(7)(a)(iv) Interval must be endorsed R.27(4)-(6) Repeats to be retained where first dispensed R.27(2) Authority required from DoH before supply of all psychostimulants R.24
Nurse Practitioner (Defined in Section 3 of the 'Act')	Must be Authorised under S25B of the Act to prescribe certain substances or classes of substances	The Nurse Practitioner must be present and practising in Tasmania. Must be Authorised under S25B of the Act to prescribe S4Ds For a repeat, the interval must be endorsed R.45(5)(a)(vii) (NB: see Repeat Intervals overleaf)	The Nurse Practitioner must be present and practising in Tasmania. Must be Authorised under S25B of the Act to prescribe certain S8 substances Repeats allowed R.20(7)(a)(iv) Interval must be endorsed R.27(4)-(6) Repeats to be retained where first dispensed R.27(2) Authority required from DoH before supply of items listed under R.24	The Nurse Practitioner must be present and practising in Tasmania. Must be Authorised under S25B of the Act to prescribe psychostimulants Repeats allowed R.20(7)(a)(iv) Interval must be endorsed R.27(4)-(6) Repeats to be retained where first dispensed R.27(2) Authority required from DoH before supply of all psychostimulants R.24
Veterinary Surgeon Prescription to be endorsed: "For animal treatment only" R.20(7)(e) R.45(5)(d)(v)	Must be registered in Tasmania or hold full registration in another Australian State or Territory	Veterinary Surgeon must be present and practicing in Tasmania For repeat, interval must be endorsed R.45(5)(a)(vii) (NB: see Repeat Intervals overleaf)	Veterinary Surgeon must be present and practicing in Tasmania Repeats allowed R.20(7)(a)(iv) Repeats to be retained where first dispensed ² R.27(2) Interval must be endorsed ¹ R.27(4)-(6) Cannot prescribe drugs listed under regulation R.24	Prescribing prohibited unless State authority issued for methylphenidate R.20(14)
Dentist Prescription to be endorsed: "For dental treatment only" R.20(7)(f)	Any dentist registered with <u>AHPRA</u>	Dental Practitioner must be present and practicing in Tasmania. For repeat, interval must be endorsed R.45(5)(a)(vii)	Dental Practitioner must be present and practicing in Tasmania No repeat allowed R.20(10) Cannot prescribe drugs listed under regulation R.24	Prescribing prohibited R.20(16)

R.45(5)(d)(ii)						
Optometrists (Endorsed) Authorised by AHPRA to prescribe R.7(1)-(3)	Only substances listed in Optometry Board of Australia 'Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines' ⁴ R.45(3)	No R.7(1)-(3)	No R.7(1)-(3)	No R.7(1)-(3)		
Prescription validity from date of writing	12 months R.51(18)(a)	6 months R.51(18)(b)	6 months R.27(17)	6 months R.27(17)		
Prescribe for self	No restriction under the Act		Self-prescribing prohibited R.20(4)			
Number of items per prescription	No restriction under the Act		One preparation only R.20(7)(b)-(c)			
Emergency supply (no prescription)	3 days' supply only R.53(a),(b)(i), or unit pack R.53(b)(ii) also see ³	No supply without prescriber's authority R.23	No supply without prescriber's authority R.23			
Notes						
¹ Repeat Intervals R.27(4)-(6) & R.51(4)-(6)	Where the prescription is for a narcotic substance and the dispensing of the prescription is authorised to be repeated, the minimum intervals at which it may be dispensed must be handwritten on the prescription by the prescriber. Where the prescription is for a declared restricted substance and the dispensing of the prescription is authorised to be repeated, the minimum intervals at which it may be dispensed must be indicated on the prescription by the prescriber. If this has not occurred, the pharmacist may do one of the following – (1) dispense original supply only, then cancel script; (2) contact prescriber for further instructions; (3) if the script has specific dose directions, calculate when new supply required and allow up to 4 days before that date. In the case of (2) and (3), the pharmacist is to write on script how minimum interval was ascertained, and sign and date the script. In the case of (3) where a pharmacist is dispensing a repeat, the due date for dispensing should be calculated using the date of first supply (not the date of the dispensing of the previous repeat). NB All directions, including the repeat interval for S8 substances MUST be handwritten by the prescriber					
² Retaining S8 repeats R.27(2)	All S8 repeats must be retained by pharmacy where they were first dispensed. If a patient requests a transfer to another pharmacy the pharmacist must seek verbal or written authorisation from Pharmaceutical Services Branch.					
³ Supply without prescription	The following Regulations also apply: R.47 Emergency prescribing and dispensing of restricted substances R.48 Continued dispensing without prescriptions in specified circumstances R.54 Supply of restricted substance in a medical institution					
⁴ Approved scheduled medicines for Optometrists	Optometry Board of Australia 'Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines' available from https://www.optometryboard.gov.au					
Verifying S8 R.28(I)	R.28(2). Authenticate validity. If unable to authenticate the validity of the prescription a pharmacist may provide 2 days' supply only until validity can be confirmed					

Recording all prescriptions R.51(9)(c)	All prescriptions must be recorded (including those containing unscheduled substances) in an appropriate recording system and the record retained for 2 years		
Marking prescriptions R.51(9)(a)(d) and R.51(13)	NB for PBS scripts, mark the duplicate. The prescription must be marked with the following: Date and signature of the pharmacist at each supply Address of dispensary and name of seller Identification code (numbers, letters) to match each label and prescription record At last supply, mark 'CANCELLED' and retain for 2 years		
Repeats and quantities	The Regulations do not specify any limits on number of repeats or quantity of drug		
Schedule 3 substances	Pharmacy must be identified on Schedule 3 items. R.58(5)		
Narcotic Storage R.29	All narcotic storage must comply with R.29 . A 'day safe' is allowed during the hours a pharmacy is open. The 'day safe' must be capable of being securely locked when not in use. The key must be retained by the pharmacist so no other person has access. The contents of the 'day safe' must be stored in the approved safe when a pharmacist is not onsite.		