

# Pharmacist Administration of Depot Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Dependence Policy

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## Approval

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Through	Darren Turner	Group Director, Alcohol and Drug Service	6166 0845	20 December 2022
Through	Advisory Group – Depot Buprenorphine in Pharmacy	Chair – Dr Nicolle Ait Khelifa	6166 0845	20 December 2022
Cleared by	Dr Nicolle Ait Khelifa	Statewide Specialty Director, Alcohol and Drug Service	6166 0845	Date

## Revision History

This Policy may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for the Department of Health and Human Services. **PLEASE DESTROY PRINTED COPIES.** The electronic version of this Policy is the approved and current version and is located on the Agency's intranet. Any printed version is uncontrolled and therefore not current.

Version	Approved By Name	Approved By Title	Amendment Notes
0.A			Original

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide direction and guidance for pharmacists to gain authorisation to administer depot buprenorphine (BPN) to clients in a community-based pharmacy / health service.
- Increase the range of treatments for opioid dependence available to clients in community-based pharmacies / health services.

## Mandatory requirements

- This policy must be compliant with the legal requirements of the *Poisons Act 1971* and the *Poisons Regulations 2018*.
- The Tasmanian Department of Health *Pharmacist administration of long-acting depot buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence policy* and associated procedures must be followed.
- The pharmacy / pharmacist must:
  - be accredited as current Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program (OPP) providers; and
  - have Program Approval to conduct vaccination services; and
  - be Authorised Pharmacist Immunisers with current Department of Health (DoH) approval
- Pharmacies / health services must comply with the requirements for lawful possession, storage, supply, recording and disposal of Schedule 8 substances, per the OPP and relevant standards, legislation and statutory rules.
- For pharmacists to be authorised to administer depot BPN they must be familiar with and understand requirements for the delivery of the OPP by:
  - Agreeing to practice in accordance with the OPP, the *Interim Brief Clinical Guidelines for Administration of Depot Buprenorphine Buvidal® and Sublocade® in the Treatment of Opioid Dependence* and the *Clinical guidelines for pharmacist administration of long-acting depot buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence*; and
  - Successfully completing training in the administration of injections and depot BPN; and
  - Following the successful completion of training, administer two (2) doses of depot BPN under the supervision of an authorised person, with supervised dosing recorded on the *Skills Assessment Record – Depot Buprenorphine*; and

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- Maintaining up to date knowledge of best practice treatment of opioid overdose and intoxication, particularly in the context of Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) medications; and
- Agreeing to:
  - Maintain recency of practice relevant to the administration of depot BPN
  - Maintain scope of practice by undertaking recognised continuing professional development (CPD) relating to opioid pharmacotherapy, specifically the administration of depot BPN.

Upon completion of the above requirements, evidence must be provided to the Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS). The Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program Policy and Clinical Practice Standards (TOPP) is currently under review, and as an interim measure the ADS is the authorising body. Pharmacists will be notified of authorisation to administer depot BPN after receipt and processing of information by the ADS.

- Provision of depot BPN by pharmacists in a community-based pharmacy / health service is within:
  - Professional scope of practice of the pharmacist; and
  - Scope of service provision of the community-based pharmacy / health service.
- This is a statewide policy and must not be reinterpreted so that subordinate policies exist. Should discrete operational differences occur, these should be expressed in the form of an approved operating procedure or protocol.
- **Failure to comply with this policy** may lead to authorisation to provide depot BPN and / or accreditation as an OPP provider being revoked and / or penalties under the relevant legislation being applied.

## Roles and Responsibilities/Delegations

- Pharmacy / health service managers / owners:
  - Must ensure the pharmacy / health service and relevant pharmacist/s are:
    - accredited as a current OPP provider under the framework of the OPP; and
    - approved to administer vaccinations
  - Must ensure that only approved pharmacists administer depot BPN
  - Must ensure pharmacies / health services comply with the requirements of the OPP and relevant legislation
  - Should ensure that appropriate governance structures for the oversight of the delivery of safe clinical services are established and maintained
  - Must provide an appropriate space designated for the administration of depot BPN. The area must meet the [Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority's requirements for a Vaccination Area in a Pharmacy Business Premises](#).

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- Should ensure appropriate training and assistance are provided to pharmacists to support scope of practice to include administration of depot BPN and manage any processes and / or complexities associated with the procedure
- Approved pharmacists:
  - Only approved pharmacists are permitted to administer depot BPN
  - Must be Authorised Pharmacist Immunisers with current DoH approval
  - Must participate in relevant training to support scope of practice to include depot BPN
  - Must provide reports of any adverse events following administration of depot BPN to the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) and the client's prescriber.

## Risk Implications

- Non-compliance with this policy, including relevant protocols and / or procedures, may result in practices which are non-compliant with the *Poisons Act 1971*, *Poisons Regulations 2018* and the OPP.

## Training

- Pharmacists must be an accredited OPP provider before they are able to seek approval to administer depot BPN.
- Pharmacists must be Authorised Pharmacist Immunisers with current DoH approval.
- Pharmacists must successfully complete training before they are able to administer depot BPN. The training must include:
  - Injection administration; and
  - Depot BPN
- Pharmacists can undertake supervised practice in one of three ways:
  - **With a private prescriber:** Pharmacists can work directly with a private prescriber to arrange supervision of injection administration if there is an existing relationship and they feel comfortable to do so.
  - **With the ADS:** The ADS Senior Pharmacist can be contacted to facilitate supervision of injection administration through an ADS site. The ADS can be contacted on [adspharmacy@ths.tas.gov.au](mailto:adspharmacy@ths.tas.gov.au), and the subject of the email should be marked "ATTN: Supervised Depot BPN Practice". The pharmacist should include their location so the request can be forwarded to the correct ADS office.
  - **With a pharmacist who is authorised to administer, and is experienced in the administration of, depot BPN:** Pharmacists can work directly with an authorised, experienced pharmacist to arrange supervision of injection administration.

## Related Documents

- Poisons Standard June 2022
- Poisons Act 1971

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- Poisons Regulations 2018
- Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program: Policy and Clinical Practice Standards
- Interim Brief Clinical Guidelines for Administration of Depot Buprenorphine Buvidal® and Sublocade® in the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
- Clinical guidelines for pharmacist administration of depot buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence
- Skills Assessment Record – Depot Buprenorphine

## Attachments

- 1 Interim Brief Clinical Guidelines for Administration of Depot Buprenorphine Buvidal® and Sublocade® in the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
- 2 Clinical guidelines for pharmacist administration of depot buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence
- 3 Skills Assessment Record – Depot Buprenorphine

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