

Northern Territory of Australia  
*Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012*  
**Exemption From Requirement to Hold Schedule 8 Authorisation –  
Hospital Patients**

I, Hugh Crosbie Heggie, Chief Health Officer:

- (a) under section 245(1)(a), (4)(b) and (5) of the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012* and with reference to section 43 of the *Interpretation Act 1978*, revoke the exemption from the requirement to hold a Schedule 8 authorisation made by instrument entitled "Exemption from Holding Schedule 8 Authorisation" dated 22 April 2014 and published on page 2 of *Gazette* No. G17, notice 2/17, of 30 April 2014; and
- (b) under section 245(1)(a), (4)(b) and (5) of the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012*, exempt each class of authorised health practitioner specified in the Schedule, Part A, from the requirement to hold a Schedule 8 authorisation for dealing with a restricted Schedule 8 substance specified in the Schedule, Part B, for the purpose of treating an addiction to a substance, subject to the conditions specified in the Schedule, Part C.

Dated 24 June 2020

H. C. Heggie  
Chief Health Officer

*Note*

*The instrument entitled "Revocation of Declaration and Declaration of Restricted Schedule 8 Substances" dated 2 March 2020 and published in Gazette No. G10 of 11 March 2020 declares each Schedule 8 substance specified in the Schedule, to be a restricted Schedule 8 substance.*

**Schedule**

**Part A**

- 1 Medical practitioners who provide clinical services in a hospital and hold specialist registration; and
- 2 Medical practitioners who provide clinical services in a hospital and are Senior Registrars.

## Part B

Buprenorphine in tablet form 0.4 mg, 2 mg or 8 mg for sublingual administration

Buprenorphine in injectable depot formulations

Buprenorphine/Naloxone formulations in film form for sublingual or buccal administration

Methadone in liquid form 5mg/mL for oral administration

## Part C

- 1 An authorised health practitioner specified in Part A (an **exempt health practitioner**) may issue a prescription for the supply of a restricted Schedule 8 substance specified in Part B (a **restricted Schedule 8 substance**) to a person if:
  - (a) the person is a patient in the care of the exempt health practitioner – only in accordance with clauses 5 and 6; or
  - (b) the person is not a patient in the care of the exempt health practitioner – only in accordance with clauses 2 to 6.
- 2 The exempt health practitioner may issue a prescription for the supply of a restricted Schedule 8 substance to a patient only if the patient's current health practitioner:
  - (a) holds a Schedule 8 authorisation under section 139(1)(b) and (c)(ii) of the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012* to issue a prescription for the supply of the restricted Schedule 8 substance to the patient; and
  - (b) is not available to review and issue the prescription.
- 3 The exempt health practitioner may issue a prescription for the supply of a restricted Schedule 8 substance to a patient only after the exempt health practitioner has obtained advice from a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner who provides clinical services in Alcohol and other Drugs Services.
- 4 If an exempt health practitioner issues a prescription for the supply of a restricted Schedule 8 substance to a patient mentioned in clause 1(b), the exempt health practitioner must record the following information in the patient's case notes:
  - (a) the full name of the medical practitioner or nurse practitioner who gave the advice to the exempt health practitioner under clause 3;

- (b) the nature of the advice given by the medical practitioner or nurse practitioner under clause 3;
  - (c) the date and time of the advice given by the medical practitioner or nurse practitioner under clause 3;
  - (d) the full name of the exempt health practitioner;
  - (e) the date and time the prescription is issued.
- 5 The exempt health practitioner may issue a prescription for the supply of a restricted Schedule 8 substance to a patient who is an outpatient of the hospital for a maximum of 3 days.
- 6 The exempt health practitioner may issue a prescription for the supply of a restricted Schedule 8 substance to a patient who is an inpatient of the hospital for a period that the exempt health practitioner considers appropriate.
- 7 In this Part:
- Alcohol and other Drugs Services*** includes the following:
- (a) Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Central Australia;
  - (b) Top End Health Service, Alcohol and Other Drugs.