

Northern Territory of Australia

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012

**Exemption From Requirement to Hold Schedule 8 Authorisation –
Patient Transfers to and from Shared Care Providers**

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 Requirement to Hold Schedule 8 Authorisation – Patient Transfers to and from Shared Care Providers" dated 26 September 2018 and published in *Gazette* No. S79, of 1 October 2018; 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, Part B, to be a restricted Schedule 8 substance.

Schedule

Part A

- 1 Authorised health practitioners (***shared care providers***):
 - (a) holding a Schedule 8 authorisation to prescribe opioid substitution treatments on the conditions set out in Part 4 of the code of practice entitled "Code of Practice – Schedule 8 Substances" and made on 14 November 2019; and
 - (b) working in private practice as shared care providers in conjunction with other authorised health practitioners engaged by alcohol and other drugs services or a correctional centre.
- 2 Authorised health practitioners (***full prescribers***):
 - (a) holding a Schedule 8 authorisation to prescribe opioid substitution treatments on the conditions set out in Part 4 of the code of practice entitled "Code of Practice – Schedule 8 Substances" and made on 14 November 2019; and
 - (b) engaged by alcohol and other drugs services or a correctional centre.
- 3 Authorised health practitioners working in a group practice with shared care providers.
- 4 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.

correctional centre, see section 4 of the *Correctional Services Act 2014*.

Part B

- 1 Buprenorphine in tablet form 0.4mg, 2mg or 8mg for sublingual administration.
- 2 Buprenorphine in injectable depot formulations.
- 3 Buprenorphine /Naloxone formulations in film form for sublingual or buccal administration.

Part C

- 1 A shared care provider may prescribe a restricted Schedule 8 substance specified in Part B to a person if:
 - (a) the person is being transferred from the care of a full prescriber to the care of the shared care provider; and
 - (b) prior to being transferred the person was being treated with the restricted Schedule 8 substance for substance addiction by the full prescriber; and
 - (c) the shared care provider prescribes the restricted Schedule 8 substance as follows:
 - (i) if the substance is a substance specified in Part B, item 1 or 3 – the shared care provider must prescribe the substance in the same dosage regimen prescribed by the full prescriber to the person for a period of not more than 14 days; or
 - (ii) if the substance is a substance specified in Part B item, 2 – the shared care provider may prescribe one further injection to be administered within 56 days after the person's most recently administered injection.

- 2 A full prescriber may prescribe a restricted Schedule 8 substance specified in Part B to a person if:
 - (a) the person is being transferred from the care of a shared care provider to the care of the full prescriber; and
 - (b) prior to being transferred the person was being treated with the restricted Schedule 8 substance for substance addiction by the shared care provider; and
 - (c) the full prescriber prescribes the restricted Schedule 8 substance as follows:
 - (i) if the substance is a substance specified in Part B, item 1 or 3 – the full prescriber must prescribe the substance in the same dosage regimen prescribed by the shared care provider to the person for a period of not more than 14 days; or

- (ii) if the substance is a substance specified in Part B, item 2 – the full prescriber may prescribe one further injection to be administered within 56 days after the person's most recently administered injection.
- 3 An authorised health practitioner specified in Part A, item 3, may prescribe a restricted Schedule 8 substance specified in Part B to a person if:
 - (a) the person is being transferred from the care of a full prescriber to a shared care provider; and
 - (b) prior to being transferred the person was being treated with the restricted Schedule 8 substance for substance addiction by the full prescriber; and
 - (c) the shared care provider is unable to prescribe the restricted Schedule 8 substance to the person; and
 - (d) the person is transferred from the care of the shared care provider to the care of the authorised health practitioner; and
 - (e) the authorised health practitioner prescribes the restricted Schedule 8 substance as follows:
 - (i) if the substance is a substance specified in Part B, item 1 or 3 – the authorised health practitioner must prescribe the substance in the same dosage regimen prescribed by the full prescriber to the person for a period of not more than 28 days; or
 - (ii) if the substance is a substance specified in Part B, item 2 – the authorised health practitioner may prescribe one further injection to be administered within 56 days after the person's most recently administered injection.