# Northern Territory Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act (2012)

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| **Medication** | **Prescription contents** | **Requirements for prescribers** |
| Un-restricted S8s   * Alprazolam * Buprenorphine patches and tablets for pain treatment * Cannabis \*with THC 0.1 per cent or more * Codeine (single active) * Fentanyl * Flunitrazepam * Hydromorphone * Methadone tablets * Morphine * Oxycodone * Tapentadol | Regulation 8: Prescription issued by health practitioner  For section 87(1)(a) of the Act, a prescription issued by an authorised prescriber who is a health practitioner must:   * state the following particulars of the authorised prescriber:   + name;   + business address and telephone number; and   + health profession. * state the date of issue; * state the name and address of the person for whom it is issued; * state the name of the substance, and the dose, form and strength, for which it is issued; * if it is for an unusual or dangerous dose – include the authorised prescriber's initials beside an underlined reference to the dose; * state the quantity of the substance to be supplied; and * if it is a repeat prescription – state the number of repeats permitted; * state the start date for supply, if different from the date the prescription is issued; * include directions for the use of the substance that are adequate to allow the substance to be taken or administered safely; * be written in terms and symbols used in ordinary professional practice; * if it is issued by:   + a dentist – state it is for dental purposes only; or   + an optometrist – state it is for the treatment of a condition of the eye only; or   + a podiatrist – state it is for podiatry treatment only; * if it is issued for an S8 substance – meet the requirements specified in regulation 10; and * be signed by the authorised prescriber.   Regulation 9: Prescription issued by a veterinarian  As above plus:   * State the name and address of the person who owns, or is in charge of, the animal for which it is issued; and * State it is for animal treatment only.   Regulation 10: Additional requirements prescription for S8 substance   * A prescription for an S8 substance must state if it is issued for: * a person – the date of birth of the person; or   + - an animal – sufficient information to identify the animal; * the quantity of the substance to be supplied in words and numerals (exception – ePrescriptions);   + if it is a repeat prescription – the minimum repeat interval. * In addition, a prescription for an S8 substance of a particular form and strength must not authorise the supply of any other substance, including an S8 substance of a different form or strength.   **Regulation 17: Formal requirements for requisitions, prescriptions and administration and supply orders**  Regulation 17 requires unless it is issued electronically;   * that any prescription **must be written in ink**; and * If there are changes to any of the details in the prescription, the initials of the person who issued the prescription and the date the change was made must appear beside each change.   NB: It is recommended but not mandatory that the name of the pharmacy where the substance will be dispensed is written on the prescription. | Health practitioners must notify the Medicines & Poisons unit, Department of Health if they prescribe:   * For a period exceeding 8 weeks; * A high initial dose; * A high daily dose; * A high combination dose of different S8s; * Replacement of lost or stolen prescriptions; * For ‘early’ prescriptions; * For a patient who has another S8 prescriber; * For a patient who wants to transfer from another S8 prescriber: or * For any patient previously notified, a renewal notification must be made after 12 months if there has been a significant change to the S8 medication or a change to the person’s circumstances (e.g. change of medical condition or change of address).   Heath practitioner must review NTScript before prescribing or dispensing any S8 substance. [NTScript HP Portal](https://hp.ntscript.nt.gov.au/) |
| Prescriptions are valid for SIX months.  No more than one months’ supply is to be dispensed at any one time.  Private prescriptions may not contain endorsements for repeat prescriptions. (exception – S8 Cannabis)  Interstate prescribing permitted – prescription must meet all NT requirements. |

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| **Medication** | **Prescription content** | **Requirements for prescribers** |
| **Restricted Schedule 8 substances**   * Dexamfetamine * Methylphenidate * Lisdexamfetamine | As per  **Regulation 8: Prescription issued by health practitioner**  **Regulation 9: Prescription issued by a veterinarian**  **Regulation 10: Additional requirements for prescription for Schedule 8 substance**  **Regulation 17: Formal requirements for requisitions, prescriptions and administration and supply orders** | Medical practitioners who hold specialist registration in paediatrics and child health, psychiatry, or as a physician in general medicine or neurology fields of specialist practice, may initiate supply without an authorisation, but must obtain an authorisation for each individual patient **if supply exceeds 30 days.**  Pharmacists are not required to view the authorisation for each patient prior to dispensing.  General practitioners (GP) and nurse practitioners (NP) may supply only if the initial decision to supply the medication is made by a recognised specialist and if such a specialist reviews the patient at least every 24 months.  Heath practitioner must review NTScript before prescribing or dispensing any S8 substance. [NTScript HP Portal](https://hp.ntscript.nt.gov.au/) |
| Prescriptions are valid for SIX months.  No more than one months’ supply to be dispensed at any one time.  Private prescriptions may contain endorsements for repeat prescriptions.  Interstate prescribing permitted by specialist (except GP’s and NP’s) – prescription must meet all NT requirements. |

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| **Medication** | **Prescription content** | **Requirements for prescribers** |
| **Restricted Schedule 8 substances**   * Buprenorphine depot Injections (Buvidal and Sublocade) * Buprenorphine sublingual tablets (Subutex) * Buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual film (Suboxone) * Methadone liquid 5mg/mL | As per  **Regulation 8: Prescription issued by health practitioner**  **Regulation 10: Additional requirements for prescription for Schedule 8 substance**  **Regulation 17: Formal requirements for requestions, prescriptions and administration and supply orders**   * The name of the pharmacy from which the substance is to be dispensed; * The dosage regimen clearly and precisely specified (e.g. Dose intervals, specific days of the week for dosing); and * The nature of any takeaway privileges. | Medical practitioners providing pharmacotherapies need to complete a prescriber course and follow the approved pathway outlined in the Code of Practice.  An authorisation to supply buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone, buprenorphine depot or methadone liquid is required for each individual patient.  Heath practitioner must review NTScript before prescribing or dispensing any S8 substance. [NTScript HP Portal](https://hp.ntscript.nt.gov.au/)  **Unsupervised doses (USDs)**  USDs may be prescribed for clients who meet stability criteria, reduced or stopped their use of illicit substances and have provided urine samples free of illicit substances.  The maximum number of USDs to be prescribed is **three** per week for people on daily doses, or **one** per week for people on alternate day buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, unless authorised by the Chief Health Officer.  There are provisions in the Code of Practice for packaging and labelling of USDs doses and for dealing with clients who have missed one or more daily doses. |
| **Long acting buprenorphine depot injections (LABI) Buvidal and Sublocade must never be handled by, or be accessible to, or dispensed DIRECTLY to patients or carers. All steps must be taken to avoid any possibility of diversion of depot injection(s) to unauthorised persons.**  **LABIs must be administered by registered health practitioners.**  **Serious harm or death could result if administered intravenously**  **Interstate prescribing prohibited.** |
|  | **A prescription remains in effect for three days from the date of prescribing or of the start date if that is different from the date of prescribing (inclusive of the date of issue or the start date).**  **Prescriptions not presented to the nominated pharmacy within three days of the date of prescribing or the start date, are invalid.**  **Prescriptions for restricted substance buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone and methadone liquid may only allow for a total supply period of THREE months.**  **The substance is to be dispensed one day at a time and consumed in front of the dispensing pharmacist, nurse or doctor (subject to takeaway doses). This is a requirement for all circumstances and does not need to be written on the prescription.** | **Labelling of Unsupervised doses (USDs)**  The label for buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone and methadone liquid must contain:   * The name, strength and dose from of the substance; * The quantity contained in the container; * Specific instructions for use; * The name of the person receiving the takeaway; * The name, address and telephone number of the supplier; * A warning of drowsiness and concurrent used of alcohol or other sedating medication; and * A warning to keep out of reach of children.   **USDs of Methadone liquid**   * Use child resistant containers; * Use a separate container for each daily dose; * Containers must not be re-used for that purpose; and * Each daily dose of methadone liquid must be diluted with **water** to a total volume of **200ml**. |

The *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012* states that the following applies to medical practitioners:

* authorised prescribers, including doctors, nurse practitioners, eligible midwives, dentists and veterinarians, are **prohibited** from prescribing an S8 substance to themselves.

**Electronic Prescribing**

Electronic prescriptions must be in accordance with the *Electronic Transactions (Northern Territory) Act 2000*.

As per

Regulation 8: Prescription issued by health practitioner

Regulation 9: Prescription issued by a veterinarian

Regulation 10: Additional requirements for prescription for S8 substance

Regulation 17: Formal requirements for requestions, prescriptions and administration and supply orders