Continued Dispensing Initiative

# What is Continued Dispensing?

‘Continued dispensing’ is the supply of a standard Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) pack of chronic therapy medicine to a patient by a community pharmacist, under specific circumstances, to facilitate patient adherence to therapy and prevent treatment interruption due to the inability to obtain a timely prescription renewal.

# Does the NT *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act* *2012* (MPTGA) allow me to supply Scheduled substances under the ‘continued dispensing’ initiative of the community pharmacy agreement?

Section 59A of MPTGA allows a pharmacist in the course of practising the pharmacy profession to supply an **unrestricted Schedule 4 substance** to a person if the substance is covered by an instrument made under section 89A(3) of the *National Health Act 1953* (Cth). Instruments issued under the *National Health Act 1953* (Cth) are automatically adopted by MPTGA. Any supply must be in accordance to the conditions stated in the instrument.

The supply of medicines under these arrangements are subject to a strict set of professional guidelines - [*Guidelines for the continued Dispensing of eligible prescribed medicines by pharmacists (PSA Guidelines)*.](https://my.psa.org.au/s/article/Continued-dispensing-guidelines)

Continued Dispensing is a separate arrangement to ‘emergency supply’ provisions (Section 59 of MPTGA).

# Eligible medicines

In the NT Continued Dispensing supply is limited to PBS listed unrestricted Schedule 4 substances.

A list of these medicines can be found in Schedule 1 of the current National Health (Continued Dispensing) Determination: [National Health (Continued Dispensing) Determination 2022 (legislation.gov.au)](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022C00991)

A patient is limited to one (1) supply of an eligible medicine per 12 months.

***Not included*** *are Schedule 8 medicines, Restricted Schedule 4 medicines and privately funded Schedule 4 and 8 medicines.*

# Where do I find more information?

More information on pharmacist and patient requirements can be found: [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) | Continued Dispensing Arrangements](https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/continued-dispensing)

Medicines and Poisons

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