

Section 250 NT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act PPHC NT Health Guideline

Document Metadata			
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Jurisdiction Exclusions		Population and Primary Health Care Remote Big Rivers, East Arnhem and Top End Regions;	
		N/A;	
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Purpose

To ensure Primary and Public Health Care and Population and Primary Health Care (hereafter referred to collectively as PPHC) remote clinical staff are aware of and adhere to Section 250 of the NT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act (MPTGA) providing Nurses, Midwives and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners with a regulatory framework to possess, supply and administer medications.

Guideline

The Northern Territory (NT) [Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act \(MPTGA\) 2012 and Regulation 2014](#) regulate the possession, supply or administration of drugs and poisons in the Territory. The Act provides the regulatory framework for Health Practitioners to perform their duties while ensuring safe and effective use of medicines.

The Act in its entirety is applicable to all [health practitioners](#) dealing with scheduled substances. Specific to remote practice, Section 250 of the Act enables a nurse, midwife or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner (ATSIHP) to supply or administer a schedule 4 or 8 substance according to a Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol (SSTP) approved by the Chief Health Officer (CHO) by Gazette Notice.

A Gazettal Notice published under **Section 250, 252 and 254** of the [Act](#) allows **Nurses, Midwives and ATSIHPs** working at a **declared place** (see Part A of Gazette Notice) to **possess, supply or administer** a Schedule 4 or 8 substances listed in [Part C](#)¹ **according to an SSTP** listed in [Part B](#)¹ **in the course of the approved practitioner's duties**. The [Declared Places Outreach Services SSTP](#) also authorises the same provisions for nurses, midwives and ATSIHPs when providing outreach services from a declared place as specified in Part A. For the current approval see [Government Gazette Notice G37](#) – Nurses, Midwives and ATSIHPs.

¹ The Information Sheet: [Approved Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocols & Medicines List](#) summarises Schedule B and C of the Section 250 Notice & other medicines approved by PHC Remote Best Practice Groups.

To practice within the legislation, all parts highlighted in bold above must be complied with.

Clinical practice must be undertaken in accordance with [Authorised Clinical Protocol and Procedures Manuals](#) and within the scope of practice according to individual Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority ([AHPRA](#)) registration.

1 Supply or Administration of Medicines by a Nurse, Midwife or ATSIHP

The supply or administration of medicine by nurses, midwives or ATSIHPs at declared PPHC remote health centres and their outreach services is to be conducted in accordance with:

- an order or prescription from an [Authorised Prescriber](#), or
- an approved [SSTP](#) in accordance with the [NT MPTGA](#). **Where an SSTP is unclear regarding the need for medical officer consultation prior to supplying medicine, or where an SSTP does not exist, a medical officer must be consulted.**

A nurse, midwife or ATSIHP who supplies a medicine in contravention of Section 250 of NT MPTGA and as described in this PPHC Remote document, will not be legally protected. The person may be liable to prosecution and/or disciplinary action, such as referral to the relevant Professional Registration Board.

For nurses, midwives and ATSIHPs, a number of points are worthy of note:

- Schedule² 4 & 8 medicines that are not listed in the Section 250 [Part C](#)¹ may only be supplied or administered on the specific order of an [Authorised Prescriber](#).
- In PPHC Remote all unscheduled or Schedule 2 & 3 substances may only be supplied or administered according to an approved SSTP or on the specific order of an Authorised Prescriber.
- It should be noted that the authority of nurses, midwives and ATSIHPs only applies in the course of their duties at declared places and outreach services. It follows that this responsibility does not carry through to outside of employment.
- Section 250 Notices *enable* an approved nurse, midwife or ATSIHP to lawfully supply or administer specified medicines in the course of his / her duties. It does *not* compel a nurse, midwife or ATSIHP to administer a medicine outside their scope of practice.
- It is a PPHC Remote directive that:
 - ~ the Schedule 8 substance listed in [Part C](#)¹ of the Notice may be administered without the personal attendance or advice of a medical officer only if the nurse, midwife or ATSIHP is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the medical condition of the person requires its administration without delay. See [Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 Medicines PHC Remote Guideline](#) for further details.
 - ~ medicines must not be administered by the intravenous route without the direction of a medical officer, except where the medical condition of the person requires the intravenous administration of the medicine without delay.
 - ~ adverse incidents must be recorded in client's electronic health record and entered into RiskMan, See the [Reporting Medication Incidents PHC Remote Guideline](#) for detailed information.

2 Part A – Declared Places

Part A of the Section 250 Notices lists the health centres declared by the CHO to be health centres at which nurses, midwives and ATSIHPs are able to supply or administer the medicines listed in Part C of the Notice in accordance with the SSTPs listed in Part B of the Notice.

The [Declared Places Outreach Services SSTP](#) provides further approval by the CHO for nurses, midwives or ATSIHPs when providing outreach services from a declared place as specified in Part A. The Declared Places Outreach Services SSTP lists the following services:

- routine primary health care at schools, outstations, camps, home visits and workplaces

² As provided in the [Poisons Standard](#), published under the [Australian Government Therapeutic Goods Act](#).

- vaccinations at schools, outstations, camps, home visits and workplaces
- emergency treatment for trauma and emergencies at the site of the emergency
- home visits for contact tracing for persons at risk of infectious diseases
- evacuation centre - as established by the Territory Recovery Coordinator

3 Part B - Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol

It is legislated that the substances listed in [Part C](#) of the Section 250 Notices may be supplied and administered without the prior authorisation of a medical officer only in adherence with an SSTP listed in [Part B](#).

Nurses, midwives and ATSIHPs are obliged to adhere to the content of the approved SSTPs, and are indemnified for their practice when providing treatment in accordance to the SSTP. All SSTPs are to be available in the health centre. Where uncertainty exists around the adequacy of a protocol to apply for a given presentation, nurses, midwives and ATSIHP staff should proceed to a consultation with medical officers to determine an appropriate course of action.

Note: Medical Officers are similarly obliged to adhere to the protocols provided in these SSTPs in the first instance, unless having sound clinical justification for deviating to an alternate or additional treatment regime.

NT PPHC Remote aspires to a best practice standard of consistent and evidence based clinical practice. Guiding clinical practice throughout PPHC Remote are the following SSTPs (see Gazettal Notice for current CHO approved version for health centres). Also see [Authorised Clinical Protocol and Procedures Manuals](#).

Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol (SSTP)	Available via
Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association (CARPA) Standard Treatment Manual (STM)	Hard copy in health centre and available online
Minymaku Kutju Tjukurpa Women's Business Manual	<i>Manuals are available via remote health stock processes</i>
Australian Immunisation Handbook Edition	online via Australian Government Department of Health website
Adult and Special Groups Vaccination Schedule	Online via Centre for Disease Control – Immunisation website
Childhood Vaccination Schedule	
Northern Territory Pneumococcal Vaccination and Revaccination Guideline	
Vaccination Schedule when Administering Workplace Staff Immunisation Program Vaccines to Adults in the Northern Territory (NT) Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol	Intranet only <i>Note, this SSTP is being updated to include CHO Directions No. 55 of 2021 - Directions for mandatory vaccination of workers to attend the workplace</i>
Declared Places Outreach Services Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol	Intranet only
Mango Dermatitis PHC Remote Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol	Hard copy in Additional Clinical Protocols Folder and online via links provided
Men's Ceremonial Business PHC Remote Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol	

3.1 Development and Review

Ongoing processes are in place to ensure the currency of each of these SSTPs. The CARPA STM and the Women's Business Manual are both documents that have been generated and reviewed by large editorial groups comprised of expert practitioners. The CHO recognises that the process of developing the CARPA STM and the WBM is sufficiently rigorous methodologically and professionally to be satisfied to authorise them as SSTPs under section 254 of the NT MPTGA.

When an SSTP may be required, it must be developed in accordance with the [Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol \(SSTP\) Development, Review and Monitoring in NT Health Facilities Guideline](#). The proposed SSTP must be sent to the CHO for review and approval by publication in the Government Gazette to become an approved SSTP under Section 254 of NT MPTGA.

Any staff member noting a potential deficit or inadequacy in the approved SSTPs may raise this for discussion utilising the [Best Practice Referral Form](#) / [NT PHC Remote Medicines Group Referral Form](#).

4 Part C – Schedule 4 and 8 Substances

[Part C](#) of the Section 250 Notice lists S4 and S8 Medicines approved by the CHO that may be supplied or administered against an approved SSTP. The Medicines List must be displayed in the health centre's drug storage room. Also see Section [Supply or Administration of Medicines by a Nurse, Midwife or ATSIHP](#).

5 Unscheduled, Schedule 2 and other Scheduled Medicines

Using the same principle, it is PPHC Remote directive for unscheduled, schedule 2 and other scheduled medicines to be approved by the PPHC Remote Best Practice Group. This standardises the medicines available for a nurse, midwife or ATSIHP to supply or administer, without the direction of a medical officer, in accordance with the SSTPs.

These medicines are also listed on the Information Sheet - [Approved Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocols and Medicines List](#).

6 Non-Government Remote Health Centres

See [Government Gazette G37](#) for the Declaration of Places, Approval of Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocols and Approval for Nurses, Midwives and ATSIHPs to deal with Schedule 4 or 8 Substances at non-government remote health centres.

Quality Assurance		
	Method	Responsibility
Implementation	Document will be accessible via the Policy Guidelines Centre and Remote Health Atlas	PGC Administrators
Review	Document is to be reviewed within three years, or as changes in practice occur	Senior Pharmacist Primary and Public Health Care; Senior Pharmacist Population and Primary Health Care;
Evaluation	Evaluation will be ongoing and informal, based on feedback.	Senior Pharmacist Primary and Public Health Care; Senior Pharmacist Population and Primary Health Care;
Compliance	Adverse incidents will be recorded in client's electronic health record, entered into RiskMan and will be followed up by the relevant manager.	Relevant Manager Clinical Nurse Manager Primary and Public Health Care Safety and Quality Manager Population and Primary Health Care

Key Associated Documents	
Key Legislation, By-Laws, Standards,	NT Best Practice Reference Working Group Referral PHC Remote Form NT PHC Remote Medicines Group Referral Form

Delegations, Aligned & Supporting Documents	<p>Remote Health Stock Forms – CAHS TEHS</p> <p>Authorised Clinical Protocol and Procedures Manuals PHC Remote Guideline</p> <p>Duty RMP On-Call Telephone Consultations PHC Remote TEHS Guideline</p> <p>Medical Officer Telephone Consultation PHC CAHS Guideline</p> <p>Remote Health Stock PHC Remote TEHS Guideline</p> <p>Reporting Medication Incidents PHC Remote Guideline</p> <p>Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 Medicines PHC Remote Guideline</p> <p>Stores and Ordering Overview PHC Remote CAHS Guideline</p> <p>Approved Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocols and Medicines List PHC Remote</p> <p>Mango Dermatitis PHC Remote Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol</p> <p>Men's Ceremonial Business PHC Remote Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol</p> <p>Declared Places Outreach Services Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol</p> <p>Vaccination Schedule when Administering Workplace Staff Immunisation Program Vaccines to Adults in the Northern Territory (NT) Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol: Note, this SSTP is being updated to include CHO Directions No. 55 of 2021 - Directions for mandatory vaccination of workers to attend the workplace</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccine for COVID-19 Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol NT</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccine Immunisation Schedule</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative Protocol (CVAP) ASTRAZENECA® (ChAdOx1-S) SOLUTION FOR INJECTION COVID-19 VACCINE</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative Protocol (CVAP) COMIRNATY® (BNT162b2 [mRNA]) COVID-19 VACCINE</p> <p>NT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 and Regulation 2014</p> <p>DoH Medicines and Poisons Control website:</p> <p>Gazette Notices (Section 250, 252, 254) – <i>provides links to relevant Gazettal Notices</i></p> <p>Government Gazette G37 for the “Primary Health Care Centres: Department of Health: Revocation of Notice and Declaration of Places, Approval of Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocols and Approval for Nurses and Midwives to Deal with Schedule 4 or 8 Substances”.</p> <p>Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol (SSTP) Development, Review and Monitoring in NT Health Facilities Guideline</p> <p>Poisons Standard</p> <p>Australian Government Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</p> <p>Health Practitioner Regulation (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2010</p>
References	As Above





Definitions, Acronyms and Alternative Search Terms

Term	Description
Authorised Prescriber:	a medical officer, nurse practitioner or other health practitioner (eg Dentist, Optometrist) who is authorised to issue a prescription under the NT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 , and issues the prescription in the course of practicing within their scope of practice.
Declared Places:	are health centres or clinics declared by the CHO under Section 252 of the Act to be places at which the provisions of Section 250 apply for nurses, midwives or ATSIHPs. These health centres are listed in Part A of the Government Gazette G37 . All Department of Health (DoH) PPHC Remote health centres are included in Part A. <i>Note: Outreach services from a declared place are authorised by the Declared Places Outreach Services SSTP.</i>
Health Practitioner:	is a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2010 to practice a health profession (other than a student). Ref: S23 of the NT MPTGA.
Health Profession Manager:	for the purpose of this document refers to the PPHC Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners (ATSIHP), PPHC Director of Nursing and Midwifery and PPHC Director of Medical Services.
Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol (SSTP):	is a protocol for possessing, supplying or administering a scheduled substance as approved by the Chief Health Officer (CHO) under Section 254 of the Act.

Evidence

Reference	Method	Evidence Level (I-V)	Summary of Recommendation from this Reference
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

							
Clinical Governance	Partnering with Consumers	Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection	Medication Safety	Comprehensive Care	Communicating for Safety	Blood Management	Recognising & Responding to Acute Deterioration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>