MEDICINES & POISONS CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET NO. 310.1
EXPLANATION OF KEY TASKS – PHARMACY SPECIFIC

Medicines & Poisons Control is responsible for the monitoring and control of supply of Poisons (scheduled substances) and Therapeutic Goods in the Northern Territory.

Key tasks include:

- issuing of licences, registrations and authorisations for medical kits, wholesalers, retailers, manufacturers and Pest Management Technicians under legislation
- inspections of wholesaler, retailer, manufacturer, Pest Management Technicians, hospital, veterinarian, health clinic and pharmacy premises for Legislation compliance (including storage, record keeping, packaging, labelling, advertising and supply)
- scheduling of poisons (including medicines)
- recalls of therapeutic goods
- monitoring of Schedule 8 drug movements
- issuing of authorisations for the NT Opiate Pharmacotherapy Program and
- secretariat support for the “Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 Substances Clinical Advisory Committee” (CLAC).

Section 96 (1) of the Medicines Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act (MPTGA) requires:
A pharmacist who supplies a Schedule 8 substance or restricted Schedule 4 substance on prescription must, within 7 days after the supply, give the Chief Health Officer –
(a) if the prescription is a repeat prescription that authorises supply on a later occasion – a copy of the prescription; or
(b) otherwise – the prescription on which the pharmacist supplied the substance.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

An electronic database maintained by Medicines & Poisons Control stores all S8 supply information received from pharmacists and other suppliers of S8s.

This essential information is used by the S8 & Restricted S4 Clinical Advisory Committee (CLAC) who advises the Chief Health Officer on all matters relating to S8s, ranging from specific case management to policy development.

Section 185 of MPTGA allows an inspector to:
Inspect and take copies of records required to be kept under this Act.

The request for information faxes sent to pharmacies may relate to information requested on behalf of the Coroner’s Office, the CLAC, or to assist prescribers to manage a specific patient.

Medicines & Poisons Control do not send out request for information faxes lightly and appreciate the effort it takes for pharmacists to collate the requested information.

For further information please contact:
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