

## MEDICINES & POISONS CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET No. 310.6

### SUPPLYING WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION – PHARMACIST

**Can a pharmacist supply Scheduled substances without a prescription and in what circumstances?**

The *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012* provides for the supply of Schedule 4 and 8 substances without a prescription under sections 59, 60 and 61.

#### **Section 59**

This section authorises a pharmacist to supply, in an emergency, no more than 7 days supply of a Schedule 4 substance at its daily dose (or the smallest primary manufacturer's pack) to a patient, or their agent. However, the pharmacist must be satisfied that they, or another pharmacist, have supplied the substance previously on the prescription of an authorised prescriber.

If an agent is requesting supply for another person e.g. they are the carer of a child or older person, they are required to provide the pharmacist with proof of their identity and the name and contact details of the prescriber.

#### **Section 60**

Section 60 provides for the supply of Schedule 4 substances to a patient in residential care. That is a residential facility that has been approved under the *Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997* as a provider of residential care services. There are 15 approved residential care facilities in the NT. A full list can be found at:

[http://www.agedcareguide.com.au/residential\\_browse.asp?stateid=3](http://www.agedcareguide.com.au/residential_browse.asp?stateid=3)

The pharmacist may supply Schedule 4 substances to the person's agent provided they are satisfied that the patient is in residential care and they have supplied the patient, or their agent, previously. However, the pharmacist cannot supply more than 7 days supply of the substance at its daily dose (or the smallest primary manufacturer's pack). The agent is required to provide the pharmacist with proof of their identity and the name and contact details of the prescriber.

#### **Section 61**

Under section 61, a pharmacist may supply Schedule 8 and restricted Schedule 4 substances to a person, or their agent, when verbally requested by an authorised prescriber to supply the substance.

The supply of the substances must be for the patient to self-administer, or for some-one else to administer to the patient e.g. the parent of the patient or their guardian or carer.

However, the pharmacist cannot supply more than 7 days supply of the substance at its daily dose.

**How can a pharmacist tell if the prescriber is authorised to prescribe?**

There is public access to the individual health professions National Board registers which list all health practitioners registered in that profession. The information available includes any restrictions that have been placed on the practitioner by their professional board.

A health practitioners' registration status and any endorsements, or restrictions, on their registration can be accessed via the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency at

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration.aspx>

For further information please contact:

**Medicines & Poisons Control**

**Phone:** (08) 8922 7341

**Fax:** (08) 8922 7200

**Email:** [poisonscontrol@nt.gov.au](mailto:poisonscontrol@nt.gov.au)