

Department of Health health

*Pharmacist Prescribing*

Australasian Pharmacist Prescribing Workshop

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Department of Health

health

Summary of points for non-medical prescribing

Legislative basis – describes current provisions under the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981.

Current approval process in Victoria.

Current considerations by jurisdictional health departments.

Summary of issues relevant to possible future pharmacist prescribing.

Department of Health

Legislative basis health

- **Section 13(1) of *Drugs, Poisons & Controlled Substances Act 1981* authorises who, for the lawful practice of their profession, can obtain, possess, use, sell or supply Scheduled poisons.**
- **Regulation 15 specifies the circumstances in which a pharmacist is authorised to sell or supply Schedule 4 and 8 poisons, their lawful practice for those drugs.**
- **Current non-medical prescribing professions include nurse practitioners, optometrists and podiatrists.**
- **Any move to allow pharmacist prescribing would require the legislation to be amended to include their prescribing in the lawful practice of pharmacy.**

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Current approval process for non-medical prescribing health

The departmental Health Professional Drug Access Committee (HDPAC)

1. **Composed of officers with expertise to review submissions by registration boards concerning endorsement of members to prescribe drugs.**
2. **Providing advice to the Minister for Health to approve relevant medicines for safe prescribing by an expanded health workforce.**
3. **Assist DH in achieving its objective to enhance and protect the health and wellbeing of all Victorians into the future.**

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Need for National Consistency health

**Currently non-medical prescribing authorisations vary between jurisdictions**

**The National Registration & Accreditation Scheme is committed to a nationally consistent approach**

**In order to achieve national consistency a national framework for authorisations is required**

**Health Workforce Australia, a COAG initiative - its challenges include developing innovation and reform of the health workforce**

Department of Health

Pharmacist prescribing health

**Existing Victorian legislation allows pharmacists to supply schedule poisons in the lawful practice of their profession.**

**Policy decision to amend the current scope of pharmacy practice?**

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