

Application for a permit to treat a patient with Schedule 8 drugs



Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

Section 1 should be completed in all cases as well as EITHER Section 2 or Section 3, and then the form signed and dated. Refer to explanatory notes and summary of requirements if necessary. (Please print **legibly** in block letters and provide all information)

SECTION 1: (to be completed in all cases)

APPLICANT DETAILS

SURNAME (FAMILY NAME)

FIRST NAME

PRACTICE ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN

POSTCODE

QUALIFICATIONS

TELEPHONE

FAX

PATIENT DETAILS

SURNAME (FAMILY NAME)

FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN

POSTCODE

DATE OF BIRTH

SEX MALE
FEMALE

DPRG NUMBER (IF KNOWN)

CLINICAL DETAILS

CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS (OR DIAGNOSES)

SECTION 2: Application for a permit under section 34

Name of Schedule 8 drug(s)	Dose form of drug(s)	Expected maximum daily dose

Details of other treatment (if applicable):

SECTION 3: Notice under section 34D - Permit not required (to be completed **ONLY** in relation to **SPECIFIED** conditions and circumstances: see explanatory note about giving Notice of Treatment overleaf)

I hereby give notice that the condition and circumstances are as set out overleaf in the relevant approval number:

- Pain caused by cancer and its complications (opioid analgesics only)
SCHEDULE 8 DRUGS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY: morphine oxycodone methadone
Other opioids (please specify): _____

OR

- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and I am a paediatrician or psychiatrist treating a patient under 18 years of age with dexamphetamine or methylphenidate

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DRUGS AND POISONS REGULATION GROUP

PHONE: 1300 364 545 FAX: 1300 360 830



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Victorian legislation makes it a requirement for medical practitioners and nurse practitioners to hold a permit to prescribe Schedule 8 poisons under certain circumstances. The following table summarises the requirements of the legislation. The department has also developed a policy that governs the issue of Schedule 8 permits. A copy of this policy is available on request from the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Group, or at www.health.vic.gov.au/dpu.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

PERMIT TO PRESCRIBE A SCHEDULE 8 POISON – complete Sections 1 & 2 only

(i) Treatment for a continuous period of greater than 8 weeks

The *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* requires a medical practitioner to hold a permit from the Department of Human Services when it is necessary to prescribe a Schedule 8 drug for the medical treatment of a patient for longer than 8 weeks. The 8 week period is the time the patient has been treated with the Schedule 8 poison by any practitioner, not just the treatment provided by the current applicant.

(ii) Treatment of a drug dependent person

The Act requires a practitioner to hold a permit **BEFORE** prescribing any Schedule 8 poison to a drug dependent person, except in certain limited circumstances described below.

(iii) Permits required before prescribing certain drugs

The *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006* require a medical practitioner to hold a permit **BEFORE** prescribing amphetamines, methylphenidate or methadone **UNLESS** the medical practitioner is treating:

- an out-patient at an oncology or pain clinic at a hospital;
- an out-patient under the care of a palliative care service; or
- the medical practitioner is a psychiatrist or paediatrician treating a person for attention deficit disorder.

While these circumstances exempt the practitioner from obtaining a permit before prescribing, in all cases a permit is required where the treatment continues for more than 8 weeks.

(iv) General exemptions

Practitioners are not required to hold a permit where the patient:

- is an in-patient in a hospital;
- is in an aged care service;
- is a prisoner being treated in prison or for a period not exceeding 7 days after release from prison;

A practitioner working in a multiple practitioner clinic may prescribe without holding a permit if:

- the treatment is provided at the multiple practitioner clinic, and
- another practitioner at the clinic already holds a permit to treat the patient with the same drug, and
- the treatment is in accordance with that permit.

Important note: These general exemptions also apply to the treatment of drug dependent persons, but the practitioner is still required to make a notification of drug dependence if he or she intends to treat with a drug of dependence.

(v) Treatment of opioid dependence with methadone or buprenorphine

This form should not be used to apply for a permit to treat an opioid dependent person with opioid substitution therapy. Use the form *Application to treat an opioid dependent person with methadone or buprenorphine*.

(vi) Avoid delays in processing

Applications cannot be processed until all the information required by legislation is provided. Please ensure that ALL details are completed and the form is signed and dated.

GIVING NOTICE OF TREATMENT – complete Sections 1 & 3 only

Under certain circumstances a medical practitioner may simply give notice of treatment with the indicated Schedule 8 drugs without the need to obtain a permit. These conditions and circumstances are listed in the table below. *Permits are still required prior to treatment of patients believed to be drug dependent (see (ii) above), except in certain exempt circumstances (see (iv) above).*

The Secretary specifies the following circumstances and medical conditions for the purposes of section 34D of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*

Medical conditions	Applicable circumstances
1. Pain caused by cancer or complications arising from cancer, where “cancer” means a malignant growth of human tissue which if unchecked is likely to spread to adjacent tissue or beyond its place of origin and which has the propensity to recur, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes carcinoma, sarcoma, any mixed tumour, leukaemia, any type of lymphoma, melanoma and non-invasive, in situ carcinoma.	(a) Diagnosis of pain caused by cancer, or complications arising from cancer, is made by a registered medical practitioner; and (b) the Schedule 8 poison administered, supplied or prescribed is an opioid analgesic.
2. Childhood attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.	(a) The Schedule 8 poison administered, supplied or prescribed is dexamphetamine or methylphenidate; and (b) the person to be administered, supplied or prescribed the Schedule 8 poison is less than 18 years old; and (c) the registered medical practitioner is a paediatrician or psychiatrist who has been recognised for the purposes of the <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i> of the Commonwealth, as a consulting physician, or as a specialist, under section 3E or section 61 of that Act by a determination of the responsible Minister that has effect in regard to the speciality known as paediatrics or psychiatry; and (d) the registered medical practitioner, referred to in paragraph (c) conducts a review, at least annually, of the therapeutic need for the Schedule 8 poison to be administered, supplied or prescribed to the patient being treated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PRIVACY

It is a requirement of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (*‘the Act’*) that the information set out on this form is provided to the Department of Human Services (DHS). You are required to inform the patient of the mutual obligations of both medical practitioners and DHS in relation to the collection, storage and use of this information. You are required to generally advise that: The *Act* requires that this information be provided to DHS to meet statutory notification requirements, and for the issuing of permits as required under the legislation.

The department discloses the information only:

- to a medical practitioner when necessary to facilitate co-ordination of the patient’s drug treatment and safe prescribing of drugs, e.g. when another medical practitioner applies for a permit or is considering prescribing a drug of dependence, or
- to a pharmacist to facilitate payment of pharmacotherapy dosing fees for eligible persons, and
- when otherwise required by law, and
- in some circumstances when permitted under provisions of *The Health Records Act 2001*.

The patient has a right to gain access to the information held by the department.

Further information about privacy or about Victorian Drugs and Poisons legislation may be obtained by calling the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Group on 1300 364 545 or visiting the DPRG website at www.health.vic.gov.au/dpu.