

PERMIT TO PURCHASE OR OTHERWISE OBTAIN POISONS OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Condition to be included on permit to provide for use of standing orders

CONDITION:

If -

- (a) a written or verbal authorisation from a medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrist, for an individual and specific patient under the care of a nurse is not available, or has not been given, and
- (b) the treating medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrist has not given instructions with respect to the patient to the contrary, and
- (c) a therapeutic protocol applicable in defined clinical circumstances, (from this point on the protocol is referred to as a 'standing order'), is available,

a nurse, with the education and training referred to in paragraph 4(e), may administer a Schedule 4, Schedule 8, or Schedule 9 poison to a patient in accordance with a standing order, provided that the permit holder -

1. has established a committee (referred to from this point as 'the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee'), consisting of no less than representatives of senior medical, nursing, and pharmacy personnel, employed by, or practising at the health service, to consider all aspects of drug use in the health service,
2. ensures that the standing order has been approved by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee prior to its implementation,
3. ensures that, prior to approving the standing order, the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee ensures and certifies that -
 - (a) the use of the standing order offers benefits for patient care and outcomes.
 - (b) in the circumstances to which the standing order relates, the standing order is safe, and
 - (c) the standing order is not approved to relieve a medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrist of any professional requirements, to reduce the staff requirements of the permit holder with respect to medical practitioners, dentists, nurse practitioners, authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrists, or compensate for a reduction in staffing of medical practitioners, dentists, nurse practitioners, authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrists.

4. ensures that the standing order includes -
 - (a) the designation of the sponsor of the standing order,
 - (b) the sources of evidence and the consultations from which the standing order has been developed and refers to information sources,
 - (c) the areas or departments within the health service where the standing order is applicable,
 - (d) the defined clinical circumstances in which the standing order may be commenced,
 - (e) the education and training required of the nurse to perform the procedures set out in the standing order,
 - (f) references to other standing orders that are related to the standing order,
 - (g) the expiry date of the standing order, and
 - (h) the name and signature of the chairperson of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

5. ensures that the standing order is -
 - (a) reviewed at intervals, determined by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, being not more than 36 months from the date of approval or review (whichever is the later),
 - (b) following review, re-signed and dated by the chairperson of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, and
 - (c) reissued in a manner that indicates the date of review.

6. provides a document control system that ensures the -
 - (a) orderly storage of standing orders,
 - (b) assignment of unique identifying numbers to standing orders,
 - (c) effective dissemination of approved or reviewed standing orders to, and retrieval of the expired standing orders from, the areas and departments of the health service to which a standing order applies,
 - (d) effective dissemination of approved or reviewed standing orders to any medical practitioners, dentists, nurse practitioners, authorised optometrists or authorised podiatrists who are employed by or practise in the areas or departments of the health service to which a standing order applies,
 - (e) review of standing orders by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee prior to expiry, and
 - (f) security of each standing order through the assignment of access rights to the master copy of the standing order to prevent unauthorised alteration or dissemination of standing orders.

7. ensures that the administration of a Schedule 4, Schedule 8, or Schedule 9 poison to a patient in accordance with a standing order is recorded in the patient's administration records.