

## **Drug Therapy Protocol: Midwifery**

I, Andrew Wilson, A/Chief Executive of Queensland Health, under the provisions of sections 62,167 and 255 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*, approve the 'Drug Therapy Protocol – Midwifery', in which an endorsed midwife, as defined in the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*, may, as part of the person's midwifery duties, supply or administer the restricted and controlled drugs listed in Appendix 1 under the conditions contained in this protocol.

### **Conditions of the Drug Therapy Protocol**

#### **1. Authority to Practise**

1.1 A midwife endorsed to practise midwifery by the Queensland Nursing Council is authorised to practice under this Drug Therapy Protocol (DTP).

#### **2. Requirement for a Health Management Protocol**

2.1 The employer must have a current Health Management Protocol (HMP) that supports and details the clinical use, being the administration and, in certain circumstances, supply of drugs listed in Appendix 1 of this DTP.

2.2 A midwife endorsed to practise by the Queensland Nursing Council in accordance with the provisions of this DTP may only administer and, in defined circumstances, supply those drugs listed in Appendix 1 for which a Health Management Protocol (HMP) has been developed and approved.

#### **3. Development of a Health Management Protocol**

3.1 The HMP must be developed or adopted by an interdisciplinary health team appointed by the employer under whose jurisdiction the HMP will be implemented.

3.2 As a minimum, the team must consist of a medical practitioner, midwife and pharmacist, and may include other identified professional personnel as considered appropriate by the employing authority.

#### **4. Content of a Health Management Protocol**

The HMP must clearly identify:

4.1 The procedures for clinical assessment, management and follow-up of patients, including the recommended drug therapy for the relevant clinical problem.

4.2 A clinical indication or time when medical referral/consultation must occur for that condition

4.3 The name, form and strength of the drug and the condition/situation for which it is intended.

4.4 The recommended dose of the drug.

4.5 The route of administration of the drug.

4.6 The frequency (including rate where applicable) and duration of administration of the drug.

4.7 The duration of the drug supply before medical intervention/follow-up is required.

4.8 The type of equipment and management procedures required for management of an emergency associated with the use of the drug.

## **5. Endorsement and Renewal of a Health Management Protocol**

- 5.1 The HMP must be endorsed and dated by the District Health Service Manager or chief executive officer of a non-Queensland Health organisation
- 5.2 The HMP will be effective for a maximum of two (2) years from the date of endorsement.
- 5.3 Following this period of two years or sooner if considered necessary, the HMP must be reviewed by the interdisciplinary team (see section 3) and endorsed again by the District Health Service Manager or Chief Executive Officer of a non-Queensland Health organisation.

## **6. Responsibilities of the Midwife**

- 6.1 The actions of the midwife who is endorsed by the Queensland Nursing Council to practise in accordance with the provisions of this DTP, in regard to the administration, and in certain specified circumstances, the supply of drugs, must, at all times, be in accordance with the HMP.
- 6.2 Where a controlled or restricted drug is supplied by a midwife the primary medicine container must be labelled as required by the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.
- 6.3 A midwife who is practising under this DTP must have access to the current version of the following literature:
  - 6.3.1 A copy of this Drug Therapy Protocol; and
  - 6.3.2 Health Management Protocols relevant to this DTP; and
  - 6.3.3 A current MIMS Annual and Australian Medicines Handbook; and
  - 6.3.4 A copy of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996; and
  - 6.3.5 Current edition of the NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook.
- 6.4 A midwife must be aware that practising within this DTP does not relieve that person of their legal responsibility or accountability for that person's actions and may not provide immunity in case of negligence.
- 6.5 Prior to administration or supply of a drug, the midwife must familiarise himself/herself with the contraindication(s), precautions and known side effects of that drug and advise the patient accordingly.
- 6.6 When Consumer Medicine Information is available for a particular drug, the midwife should provide this information to each person, where practical when administering or supplying medication.

## **7 List of Drugs**

- 7.1 The controlled and restricted drugs approved for use under this protocol are those determined by the Senior Director Population Health Branch check and listed in Appendix 1.

Signed at Brisbane on this 30 day of May 2008

Andrew Wilson

**A/Director-General**

**Queensland Health**