

Medications Used for First Aid in the Workplace (Information for Employers and Employees)

Introduction

Audits conducted by the Department of Workplace Health and Safety in relation to scheduled medicines in the workplace have concluded that the inclusion of scheduled medicines in first aid kits is not warranted. This recommendation is reflected in the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* which prohibits the stocking of first aid kits with scheduled medications.

If your workplace first aid kit contains any medications which are labelled as:

- PHARMACY MEDICINE
- PHARMACIST ONLY MEDICINE
- PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE
 - CONTROLLED DRUG

they must not be held in the kit or used by first aiders or occupational health and safety personnel to treat people in the workplace. Suppliers of first aid items are not permitted to sell these substances for use in workplace first aid kits.

Prohibited medications

There are a number of scheduled medicines which are prohibited for use in workplace first aid kits.

For example:

- **Analgesics**

Paracetamol or Aspirin (in packets containing more than **25 tablets**), Panadeine, Codeine-based products.

- **Eye Treatments**

Albalon, Antistine-Privine, Visine.

- **Burn Creams**

Derm-aid, Silvazine.

- **Cold and Flu Products**

Benadryl, Codral, Demazin, Diffiam, Duro-Tuss, Sudafed.

- **Other Products**

Ventolin, Polaramine, Claratyne

Due to their nature, these medications can only be obtained from a doctor or dispensed by a pharmacist for individual use. This ensures that people only receive appropriate medications and are advised by a professional about how to use them safely. Employees can legally obtain any medication they may require from a doctor or pharmacist for their personal use. These medications must not be used by any other person and must be stored in a way which does not allow other people access to them.

Public health and safety

This law is designed to protect the health and safety of employees in the workplace, by limiting access to medications which should only be supplied by a doctor or pharmacist. However, a registered nurse may administer a schedule 2 or 3 poison, **provided** the medication has been obtained by a doctor employed by the workplace **and** the registered nurse or doctor considers the medication is necessary for a person's well-being. If multiple doses are required, the person should consult a pharmacist or doctor.

Further enquiries

Further information regarding poison retailers' obligations can be obtained by contacting any of the Public Health Units shown below.

Brisbane North -	PH: 3624 1111	Brisbane South -	PH: 3000 9148	Cairns -	PH: 4050 3600
Redcliffe -	PH: 3142 1800	Gold Coast -	PH: 5509 7222	Townsville -	PH: 4753 9000
Sunshine Coast -	PH: 5409 6600	Logan -	PH: 3412 2989	Mt Isa -	PH: 4744 9100
Bundaberg -	PH: 4150 2780	Toowoomba -	PH: 4631 9888	Mackay -	PH: 4968 6611
Rockhampton -	PH: 4920 6989	West Moreton -	PH: 3413 1200		
Longreach -	PH: 4652 6000	Hervey Bay -	PH: 4120 6000		
		Charleville -	PH: 4656 8100		

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