

# Monitored Medicines Standard checklist

## For pharmacists

## About this checklist

This checklist summarises key obligations for pharmacists dispensing monitored medicines, as per the Monitored Medicines Standard. The checklist serves as a quick reference guide or learning tool only; there is no expectation or requirement for pharmacists to complete the checklist.

For full details of the legal requirements summarised in this document, please view the Monitored Medicines Standard on the Queensland Health website at: [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au).

Abruptly ceasing or decreasing a patient's monitored medicine treatment without appropriate ongoing support/treatment may cause serious patient harm.

Deciding not to dispense a monitored medicine should only occur after significant consideration of the risk of harm to the patient. In most cases, the implementation of risk mitigation strategies may be adequate in reducing the risk of medicine-related harms and maintaining patient engagement within the healthcare system.

### Checklist for pharmacists

#### 1. Have you documented details of any monitored medicine-related problems identified and clinical interventions performed?

- Yes**—monitored medicine-related problem(s) have been documented.
- Yes**—clinical intervention(s) performed have been documented.
- N/A**—no monitored medicine-related problem identified or clinical intervention performed.

#### 2. Do any of the following high-risk clinical scenarios apply?

- Yes**—identify the relevant scenario(s) and proceed to Step 3.
  - Scenario A:** Patient currently registered on the Queensland Opioid Treatment Program
  - Scenario B:** Patient previously registered on the Queensland Opioid Treatment Program
  - Scenario C:** Patient receiving monitored medicines from multiple prescribers

- Scenario D:** Increased patient overdose risk—average total daily opioids of 100mg OME or greater
- Scenario E:** Increased patient overdose risk—opioid and benzodiazepine/z-drug combination
- Scenario F:** Patient receiving an opioid or benzodiazepine/z-drug for the first time in 90 days
- No**—skip to Step 4.

### 3. Do you hold significant concerns about the clinical appropriateness of dispensing the monitored medicine?

- No**
- Yes**—you must:
  - attempt to communicate with the prescriber regarding your concerns before deciding whether to dispense
  - document the details and outcome of your attempt(s) to communicate with the prescriber

### 4. Have you decided not to dispense the monitored medicine because it is clinically inappropriate to do so?

If the prescriber is unable to be reached, a pharmacist may determine that it is appropriate to supply the patient with a small quantity of the prescribed monitored medicine until they can reach the prescriber.

- No**
- Yes**—you must document:
  - your clinical justification for the decision not to dispense the monitored medicine
  - the information you provided to the patient regarding your decision
  - the information you provided to the prescriber regarding your decision

### 5. Did you dispense under duress?

- No**—no further action required.
- Yes**—you must:
  - document details of the duress experienced
  - advise the prescriber of the duress
  - document details of the actions taken in response to the duress

# Contact

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