

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Factsheet – current as at February 2022

Emergency first aid

How does the scheme regulate emergency first aid?

The Act provides that a *general approval* is an approval that authorises a person to carry out a regulated activity with a regulated substance stated in the approval. The *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 (MPMR)* prescribes one type of general approval as a general approval (emergency first aid).

A *general approval (emergency first aid)* is for the class of person mentioned in column 1 of the table below to carry out the dealings with medicines mentioned opposite in column 2, for the purpose of providing first aid in an emergency.

	Column 1 – class of person	Column 2 – dealing with medicine
1	a medical practitioner working for the holder of an approval	give a purchase order for stock of medicines for a site for the approval
2	a nurse practitioner working for the holder of an approval	give a purchase order for stock of medicines for a site for the approval
3	a senior person at a site for an approval, working for the holder of the approval	possess stock of medicines for the site
4	a paramedic working at a site for an approval	(a) administer an emergency medicine on an oral prescription or a standing order made under the approval (b) possess an emergency medicine under the approval (c) dispose of waste from an emergency medicine that is a diversion-risk medicine under the approval
5	a registered nurse working at a site for an approval	(a) administer an emergency medicine on an oral prescription or a standing order made under the approval (b) possess an emergency medicine under the approval

	Column 1 – class of person	Column 2 – dealing with medicine
6	a first aid provider working at a site for an approval	(a) administer glyceryl trinitrate on a prescription from a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner made under the approval (b) possess glyceryl trinitrate under the approval

The following terms are important to consider in the context of the table above:

- **emergency medicine**, in relation to a general approval (emergency first aid), means
 - each of the following medicines–
 - adrenaline (epinephrine)
 - atropine
 - benztropine
 - ceftriaxone
 - furosemide (frusemide)
 - glucagon
 - glyceryl trinitrate
 - hydrocortisone
 - ipratropium bromide monohydrate
 - lidocaine (lignocaine)
 - methoxyflurane
 - metoclopramide
 - midazolam
 - morphine
 - naloxone
 - nitrous oxide
 - promethazine
 - salbutamol or
 - another medicine for emergencies stated in the approval
- **first aid provider** means a person who has a current certificate granted by a registered training organisation for the provision of first aid.
- **paramedic** means a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as being qualified to practise as a paramedic.
- **senior person**, in relation to a general approval (emergency first aid), means a person who is responsible for daily operations at a site stated in the approval.
- **site**, in relation to an approval, means– a place at which an event, notified to the chief executive by the holder of the approval under section 35, takes place; or a place stated in the approval.

Importantly, general approvals are case-by-case approvals which are granted by the chief executive of Queensland Health (or delegate), after an application is made by relevant persons/entities. General approvals are not automatically granted under the MPMR.

Substance management plans must be prepared by the holder of the general approval (emergency first aid) for a site stated in a general approval (emergency first aid) or at which an event notified to the chief executive under section 35 takes place.

What standard conditions does the MPMR prescribe?

The Act allows standard conditions to be prescribed by regulation to apply to substance authorities (which includes a general approval (emergency first aid)).

Three (3) standard conditions are prescribed to apply specifically in relation to a general approval (emergency first aid), namely:

- the holder of the general approval must appoint a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner who is appropriately qualified to oversee the dealings authorised under the approval;
- the holder of the general approval must take all reasonable steps to ensure a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner is available to be contacted when a registered nurse, first aid provider or paramedic is attending an event or site under the approval; and
- the holder of the general approval must give notice to the chief executive if a registered nurse, first aid provider or paramedic intends to attend an event under the approval, in the approved form and no less than 2 business days before the event happens.

Associated guidance documents

- General approvals – factsheet
- Mines – factsheet
- First aid providers – factsheet
- General approval (emergency first aid) – *initial* application form and guideline

Further information

For further information, contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit (HARU): HARU@health.qld.gov.au