Fact sheet
Dispensing quantity and frequency of drugs of dependence
Version 2.0, July 2019

Target audience: Pharmacists

Purpose
To remind pharmacists of your obligations to report occasions when you are asked to dispense more medications than appears to be reasonably necessary.

Background
Monitored Medicines Unit (formerly Medicines Regulation and Quality) has received reports of persons obtaining regular supplies of restricted drugs of dependency\(^1\) on Regulation 24 prescriptions. Other reports have been received stating persons have obtained regular supplies of injectable restricted drugs of dependency\(^*\) from community pharmacies, often of medicines primarily used in hospital and emergency settings such as midazolam ampoules.

Pharmacist reporting requirements
Pharmacists have reporting requirements when asked to dispense a controlled drug, restricted drug of dependency\(^1\) or Schedule 4 anabolic steroid for a person:

- in a greater quantity or volume than appears to be reasonably necessary; or
- more frequently than appears to be reasonably necessary.

If this occurs, you must immediately inform Monitored Medicines Unit about:

- the circumstances in which you have been asked to dispense the medication; and
- the quantity or volume of the medication dispensed; and
- when it has been dispensed for the person.

Best practice dispensing
In addition to the abovementioned reporting requirements, you are reminded that medications should be dispensed in accordance with contemporary best practice as described in documents such as the Pharmacy Board of Australia’s Pharmacy guidelines for dispensing of medicines and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia’s Professional Practice Standards.

More information

Monitored Medicines Unit
Phone: 13 S8INFO (13 78 46)
Fax: 07 3708 5431
Email: MMU@health.qld.gov.au

\(^{1}\) Restricted drugs of dependency are listed in Appendix 8 of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 and include benzodiazepines, barbiturates and phentermine. Pharmacist reporting requirements are described in Sections 84(10), 84A(4), 197(3) and 197(4) of the Regulation.