

Practice Alert - Regulatory parameters for community pharmacist prescribing activities – further guidance

Key point

Pharmacists must ensure they are **familiar** and **compliant** with the requirements, circumstances and conditions for prescribing medicines under the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021* (the Medicines Regulation), the relevant Extended Practice Authorities (EPAs), and the relevant Clinical Protocols.

Background

Prescribing authorisations enable community pharmacists in Queensland with appropriate training to prescribe medicines under the Medicines Regulation and the relevant EPAs. This includes:

- the [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists](#) for the Hormonal contraception service and the General health services.
- the [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists – Chronic conditions management pilot](#) (EPA-Chronic conditions) for services delivered through the Queensland Community Pharmacy Chronic Conditions Management Pilot.

Pharmacists **must** be aware of the specific requirements, circumstances and conditions for prescribing medicines, as they differ between each condition or service. This includes **adherence to age restrictions applicable to specific indications** (e.g. the age restrictions for the indication of 'Asthma – management of asthma symptoms' are between 16 and 65 years). **Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes a breach of the regulation.**

For the chronic conditions management services, pharmacists **must** also be aware of the specific ineligibility criteria for prescribing medicines under the [Pilot clinical protocols](#) as they differ between each Protocol.

Understanding the EPAs and Clinical Protocols

For information on how to understand the EPAs relevant to prescribing for community pharmacists, refer to the [Prescribing for Queensland community pharmacists - Explanatory Guide](#).

As outlined in the EPAs, a pharmacist must only prescribe a medicine:

- for an **approved indication, AND**
- **subject to the restrictions stated** for that indication (e.g. patient age), **AND**
- that is mentioned in the current online version of the **specified section of the Therapeutic Guidelines** for the indication. For the chronic conditions management services, the medicine must also be from the pharmacological class listed in the EPA-Chronic conditions for the approved indication.

For information on ineligibility criteria, please refer to the Clinical Protocol relevant to the service being provided (linked below).

Specific restrictions for the Chronic Conditions Management Pilot

Pilot Program	Age restrictions	Other ineligibility criteria
Improved Asthma Symptom Control Program	Patients must be aged <16 or >65 years	Please refer to the Program Clinical Protocol: Improved Asthma Symptom Control Program
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Monitoring Program	Patients must be aged <35 years	Please refer to the Program Clinical Protocol: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Monitoring Program
Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Reduction Program	Patients must be aged <18 or >79 years	Please refer to the relevant Program Clinical Protocol: Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Reduction Program – Hypertension Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Reduction Program – Blood Glucose Management Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Reduction Program – Lipid Modification

Resources

- [Prescribing for Queensland community pharmacists - Explanatory Guide](#)
- [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists](#)
- [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists – Chronic conditions management pilot](#)