

Accessing Medicinal Products held in the National Medical Stockpile (Communicable Diseases)

Access procedure for treating clinicians

This procedure outlines the process treating clinicians are to follow for accessing drugs, vaccines and antidotes (medicinal products) held in the National Medical Stockpile for communicable diseases.

This does not apply to those specific items for which the Commonwealth has provided prior approval for access (e.g., current COVID-19 treatments).

Background

The National Medical Stockpile (NMS) is a strategic reserve of drugs, vaccines, antidotes and personal protective equipment for use in health emergencies.

The [Department of Health's Secretary](#) and the [Chief Medical Officer](#) have the authority to release stockpile supplies at the request of [Queensland's Chief Health Officer](#) or Delegate. In Queensland, the Delegate, for NMS medicinal products to manage communicable diseases, is the Communicable Diseases Branch (CDB) Public Health Physician (PHP).

Approval process for access to medicinal products

1. Upon identifying the need for an NMS medicinal product, the treating physician is to consult with, and gain approval from, the HHS infectious disease physician (IDP).
 - The treating physician should also contact Central Pharmacy to identify if the NMS product is pre-positioned in Queensland.
2. Treating physician/IDP completes the *Request to access the National Medical Stockpile Form* (Attachment 1) and emails the document to the CDB PHP on-call (CDBoncall@health.qld.gov.au). This email should be followed up with a phone call.
 - The treating physician should also advise the CDB PHP where the NMS product is placed (pre-positioned in Queensland or otherwise).
3. The CDB PHP emails the request with Attachment 1 to:
 - health.ops@health.gov.au and Stockpile.Ops@health.gov.au and contacts **Health Ops** to arrange for access; and
 - copies in the Queensland Chief Health Officer (CHO), Central Pharmacy CentralPharmacy@health.qld.gov.au, and the generic CDB accounts NDPC@health.qld.gov.au and CDBoncall@health.qld.gov.au
4. Health Ops/Stockpile Ops confirms authorisation from the Chief Medical Officer (Australian Government Department of Health) and sends confirmation email to the CDB PHP (CDBoncall@health.qld.gov.au). They will also confirm the product location – either from the NMS or from Central Pharmacy (product prepositioned in Queensland).

5. The CDB PHP will forward the CMO authorisation email to the treating physician and copies (cc) to the CHO; Central Pharmacy CentralPharmacy@health.qld.gov.au and CDB on NDPC@health.qld.gov.au and CDBoncall@health.qld.gov.au.
 - The CDB PHP will advise if the stockpile item can be released from Central Pharmacy for items that are prepositioned in Queensland **or** if the stockpile item is to be dispatched directly from the NMS.

Dispatch process for items prepositioned in Queensland

1. During office hours the treating physician/IDP contacts their Hospital and Health Service pharmacy to arrange for release of the item from Central Pharmacy.
2. After hours the treating physician/IDP contacts Central Pharmacy's On-Call Pharmacist via the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital switch.
3. The item will be dispatched with product information insert/guide (directions for use and storage requirements).

Direct dispatch for items from National Medical Stockpile

1. The NMS will organise the dispatch of the requested items to the relevant hospital pharmacy via their agreed processes.
2. The treating physician/IDP discusses with the receiving pharmacy, the receipt and appropriate storage of the requested items from the NMS.
3. The item will be dispatched with product information insert/guide (directions for use and storage requirements).

Receipt of items

1. On arrival at the facility, the nominated contact person will be required to sign for receipt of the requested items.
2. A copy of the signed receipt is returned to the transport company and a copy should be kept at the receiving facility.
3. For items transported in cold chain, the packaging and gel packs should be kept for recollection. The cold chain register must be checked to ensure no cold chain breaches occurred during transportation.
4. The receiving pharmacy is to inform the treating physician that the items requested have been received and are appropriately stored.

Process for items dispatched but not used

1. At the end of treatment, any unopened NMS items must be returned to the hospital's Pharmacy.
2. For stocks that were supplied to the HHS by Central Pharmacy: The hospital pharmacy is to contact Central Pharmacy to discuss the usage, return and/or disposal of items including any unopened items.

3. For stocks that are supplied to the HHS directly by the NMS: the hospital pharmacy shall contact **NMS Health Ops** to discuss the usage, return and/or disposal of items including any unopened items.

Key contacts

- Public Health Unit <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact/public-health-units/>
- Communicable Diseases Branch, Public Health Physician on call
- Central Pharmacy
 - Central Pharmacy after hours: on call Pharmacist via the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital switch
- Commonwealth Department of Health (Health Ops)
 - health.ops@health.gov.au and Stockpile.Ops@health.gov.au

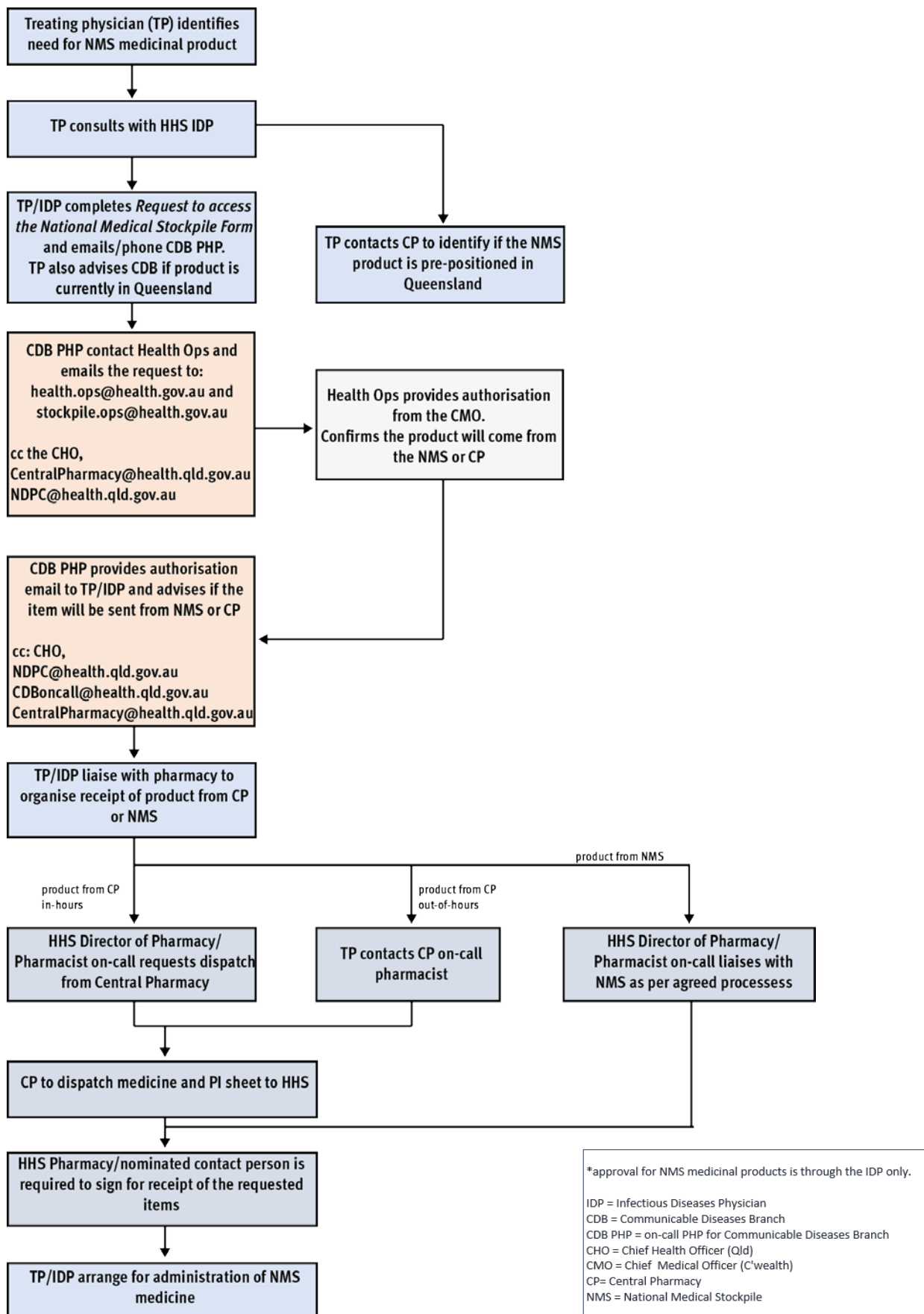
Document approval

Approving officer:

Mr. Scott Brown
Acting Executive Director
Communicable Diseases Branch

Approval date: 12 October 2022

Flowchart for NMS medicinal product



Attachment 1 - Request to access the NMS Form

REQUEST TO ACCESS THE NATIONAL MEDICAL STOCKPILE (NMS) States and Territories

Date:	[Insert date here]			
To:	ATTN: Chief Medical Officer Department of Health C/- Director, CBRN & Treatments Section National Medical Stockpile Taskforce Office of Health Protection and Response	Phone:	National Incident Centre - available 24/7	
		Email:	stockpile.ops@health.gov.au	
From:	[Insert Agency or Jurisdiction name here]	Contact name:		
		Contact number:		
		Contact email:		
Product [e.g. Goggles]	Description [e.g. Protective Goggles]	Quantity [e.g. 200]	Receiving site address [e.g. 1 Smith St, Smithfield NSW 3047]	Site contact name and number [e.g. Bill Smith 0421 234 567]
<i>One line per product.</i>				
<i>For medications, please indicate the number of doses required.</i>				
Additional instructions or information:	[e.g. delivery instructions / urgency]			

Reason for request:	[e.g. Emergency Incident – provide details]		
APPROVAL by Chief Health Officer / Authorised Delegate / Public Health Official			
Name:		Date:	
Signature:			
Position:			