Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Extended Practice Authority
'Pharmacists'

Queensland Government

Version control

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Extended Practice Authority - 'Pharmacists'

This extended practice authority (EPA) has been made under section 232 of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* (Qld) by the Deputy Director-General, Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services, Queensland Health, as a delegate of the chief executive, Queensland Health. It states the scope of the regulated activities with the regulated substances which a pharmacist is authorised to carry out for the purposes described in the table under Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 (Qld).

A term used in this EPA that is defined in the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* or the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, has the meaning stated in the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* or Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021.

Part 1 – Immunisations

Circumstances and conditions

1. A pharmacist who has successfully completed *immunisation training* requirements as detailed in Appendix 1 of this EPA, may administer a medicine listed in Appendix 2, Column 1:
    a. by a route of administration for the medicine as stated in the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, or as stated in the product information approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), or as per current recommendations issued by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), or as per current recommendations provided on the Immunisation Schedule Queensland; and
    b. subject to the restrictions, if any, for a medicine listed in Appendix 2, Column 2.
2. The pharmacist may administer an immunisation medicine listed in this EPA:
    a. at an aged care facility; or
    b. at a community pharmacy; or
    c. at a general practice[1]; or
    d. at a private health facility; or
    e. at a facility operated by a relevant health service; or
    f. at a facility where a general approval has been granted under the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* to provide an immunisation program.
3. Prior to administering an immunisation medicine, the pharmacist must ensure the amenities and resources in Appendix 3 and the equipment and procedures detailed in the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook* are in place.
4. For the requirements for administration of immunisation medicines, including for patient selection, patient consent, administration, documenting immunisation and follow up care, the pharmacist must act in accordance with:
    a. the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*; or
    b. the current recommendations issued by ATAGI; or
    c. the product information approved by the TGA; or
    d. the current recommendations provided on the Immunisation Schedule Queensland.

[1] Means an accredited practice which holds a current and valid accreditation through the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme or a non-accredited medical practice administering vaccines under the National Immunisation Program

5. When immunisation medicines are in the possession of the pharmacist, the pharmacist must ensure that the storage and transport of the medicines is in accordance with the *National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5*.
6. Before administering an immunisation medicine, the pharmacist must be familiar with the precautions, contra-indication(s) and known side effect(s) of the medicine and advise the patient accordingly.
7. The pharmacist must advise a patient if an immunisation medicine they propose to administer is listed in the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule and of the cost to the patient for the medicine (if any).
8. The pharmacist administering an immunisation medicine must ensure that:
    a. all immunisations are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register in accordance with the requirements under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* (Cth) as soon as practicable and ideally at the time of immunisation; and
    b. any adverse events occurring following immunisation must be notified using the Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) reporting form available on the Queensland Health website.

Part 2 - Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service

Circumstances and conditions

1. A pharmacist who has successfully completed the *Urinary tract infection training* in accordance with Appendix 1 may sell a medicine listed in Appendix 4, Column 1 of this EPA to a female patient aged between 18 and 65 years, without the requirement for a prescription:
    a. subject to the restrictions for the medicine stated opposite in Appendix 4, Column 2 (if any); and
    b. in accordance with relevant professional practice standards for the provision of antibiotics for acute uncomplicated cystitis in females.
2. The pharmacist must maintain eligibility to provide the service, including any ongoing training and registration requirements.
3. The pharmacist may sell the medicines only at a community pharmacy that includes the relevant amenities and resources in Appendix 3.
4. The pharmacist must not sell a medicine specified in Appendix 4, Column 1 of this EPA in a quantity that exceeds the smallest available size of the manufacturer's pack of the medicine.
5. The pharmacist must, when selling a medicine under this EPA, keep a clinical record in accordance with relevant legislation and professional responsibilities. This clinical record must include relevant patient health history, problems identified, actions taken (including the name of the medicine if supplied as well as the form, strength and amount), date and details of contact with other healthcare professionals, and the outcomes of any actions taken.
6. The pharmacist must make available a copy of the record of the service available to the patient.

Part 3 – Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot

Circumstances and conditions

1. For participating in the Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot, a pharmacist who has successfully completed the Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot training in accordance with Appendix 1 may prescribe a medicine listed in Appendix 5 to a female patient aged 16 years or older:
   a. subject to the restrictions for the medicine stated opposite in Appendix 5, Column 2 (if any); and
   b. in accordance with the current online version of the section of the Therapeutic Guidelines titled "Sexual and Reproductive Health: Contraception".
2. The pharmacist must, when prescribing the medicine, make an individualised assessment of contraceptive and sexual health needs and suitability for hormonal contraception and management; and keep a clinical record of the consultation with the patient, in accordance with relevant legislative and professional responsibilities, within the hormonal contraception module of the MedAdvisor clinical information system.
3. The pharmacist may prescribe a medicine only at a community pharmacy that includes the relevant amenities and resources in Appendix 3.
4. The pharmacist must not prescribe, in one prescription, greater than 12 months' supply of a medicine listed in Appendix 5 of this EPA.

Appendix 1

Immunisation training requirements

Pharmacists must meet BOTH requirements specified in 1 and 2 below.

1. Successful completion of either of the following qualifications:
    a. the training program for the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot I and II (QPIP I & II); or
    b. a training program accredited to meet the standards set by the Australian Pharmacy Council's '*Standards for the accreditation of programs to support Pharmacist Administration of vaccines*'.
2. A current Australian recognised qualification:
    a. in first aid, which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation and anaphylaxis management; or
    b. a current first aid certificate, in addition to a current certificate in anaphylaxis management.

Urinary tract infection training requirements

Pharmacists must successfully complete one (or more) of the following training programs that must include learning objectives on classification and epidemiology of urinary tract infections, anatomy, pathogenesis, assessment and differential diagnosis, treatment and the urinary tract infection community pharmacy service:

a. The training program developed for the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland; or
b. Training delivered through a higher accreditation institution accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency; or
c. An accredited continuing professional development program, delivered by a training provider that meets the Australian Pharmacy Council's '*Standards for Continuing Professional Development Activities'*.

Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot training requirements

Pharmacists must successfully complete a training program that must include and assess learning objectives on anatomy and physiology as relevant to the provision of a hormonal contraceptive service, the physiology of reproductive hormones and contraception methods, the mechanisms of action, efficacy, and suitability of various contraceptive methods, contraceptive counselling and decision-making, patient assessment and formulation of treatment plans that are aligned with individual patient needs, preferences, medical history and cultural considerations, and the pharmacist's scope of practice for the Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot as described in Part 3 of this EPA.

The training program must be delivered by:

a. a higher accreditation institution accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency; or
b. a training provider that meets the Australian Pharmacy Council's '*Standards for Continuing Professional Development Activities'*.

Appendix 2 – Immunisation medicines

Immunisation medicines	
Column 1 – Regulated substance/antigen	**Column 2 - Restrictions/Conditions**
Cholera	For persons aged 2 years or over
COVID-19	
Diphtheria	For persons aged 2 years or over
Haemophilus influenzae type b	For persons aged 2 years or over
Hepatitis A	For persons aged 2 years or over
Hepatitis B	For persons aged 2 years or over
Human Papillomavirus	For persons aged 2 years or over
Influenza	
Japanese encephalitis	For persons aged 2 years or over
Measles	For persons aged 2 years or over
Meningococcal	For persons aged 2 years or over
Mpox	For persons aged 2 years or over
Mumps	For persons aged 2 years or over
Pertussis	For persons aged 2 years or over
Pneumococcal	For persons aged 2 years or over
Poliovirus	For persons aged 2 years or over
Rabies	For persons aged 2 years or over for pre-exposure prophylaxis only
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	For persons aged 2 years or over
Rubella	For persons aged 2 years or over
Tetanus	For persons aged 2 years or over
Typhoid	For persons aged 2 years or over
Varicella (chickenpox)	For persons aged 2 years or over
Zoster (herpes zoster)	For persons aged 2 years or over
Adrenaline in a strength of 0.1% or less in a preloaded device such as an autoinjector, or in an ampoule	For use in treatment of anaphylaxis only

Appendix 3 - Amenities and resource requirements for services under this EPA

A pharmacist undertaking regulated activities with medicines, must only act under the authority of this EPA when a screened or private consulting area is used that:

a. ensures patients' privacy and confidentiality; and

b. has sufficient space to allow the presence of the following: the patient; a carer if necessary; the pharmacist undertaking the consultation; consumables; equipment; and documentation; and

c. has seating for the patient and their carer during the consultation.

In addition, a pharmacist providing immunisation services under Part 1 of this EPA must ensure the following amenities and resources are in place:

1. Sufficient space and appropriate surfaces for the patient to lie down in the event of an adverse reaction; and for staff to safely perform resuscitation procedures.
2. An area with seating that provides for direct visual observation where patients can wait for at least 15 minutes following the immunisation.
3. Hand washing facilities/hand sanitising products available to allow for the performance of appropriate hand hygiene before and after immunisation.
4. Enough appropriately trained staff, in addition to the pharmacist, who have current training in first aid (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation and management of anaphylaxis), available when administering immunisation medicines to ensure patient safety during post-immunisation monitoring and any adverse event management.
5. For a community pharmacy, if operationally possible, two pharmacists should be available at any one time – one to act as the dedicated immuniser and the other to manage the general business of the dispensary.
6. A community pharmacy with only one pharmacist on duty must assess their workflows to ensure they are able to provide uninterrupted care to an individual patient when providing immunisation.

Appendix 4: Medicines for Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service

Medicines for Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service	
Column 1 - Regulated substance	**Column 2 - Restrictions/Conditions**
Trimethoprim	
Nitrofurantoin	Sale and supply limited to circumstances where trimethoprim is not appropriate for the patient
Cefalexin	Sale and supply limited to circumstances where trimethoprim and nitrofurantoin are not appropriate for the patient

Appendix 5: Medicines for the Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot

Medicines for the Contraception Pilot	
Column 1 - Regulated substance	**Column 2 - Restrictions/Conditions**
Combined hormonal contraception - combined oral contraceptives (COCs) and the contraceptive vaginal ring	• The medicine must be prescribed in accordance with the current online version of the section of the Therapeutic Guidelines titled “Sexual and Reproductive Health: Contraception”. • Excluding those with high estrogen dose (Formulations containing 50 micrograms or more of ethinylestradiol, or formulations containing mestranol are not permitted).
Progesterone-only contraceptive pill	• The medicine must be prescribed in accordance with the current online version of the section of the Therapeutic Guidelines titled “Sexual and Reproductive Health: Contraception”.
Depot medroxyprogesterone (injection)	• The medicine must be prescribed in accordance with the current online version of the section of the Therapeutic Guidelines titled “Sexual and Reproductive Health: Contraception”.