

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Factsheet – current as at September 2021

Acute health conditions at isolated sites

How does the scheme regulate acute health conditions at isolated sites?

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 (acute health conditions at isolated sites).

A *general approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites)* 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 to treat acute health conditions at an *isolated site*, which includes **mine sites and island resorts**.

	Column 1 – class of person	Column 2 – dealing with medicine
1	a medical practitioner employed by the holder of the approval	give a purchase order for stock of medicines for an isolated site stated in the approval
2	a nurse practitioner employed by the holder of an approval	give a purchase order for stock of medicines for an isolated site stated in the approval
3	a senior person at an isolated site stated in an approval who is employed by the holder of the approval	possess stock of medicines for the isolated site
4	a registered nurse employed by the holder of an approval	(a) possess stock of medicines for an isolated site stated in the approval (b) give a treatment dose of an S2, S3 or S4 medicine stated in the approval on a prescription from a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner

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

- **isolated site** means a remote site for which limited medical and pharmaceutical services are available.
- Examples—
 - mine sites, island resorts

- **senior person**, at an isolated site, means a person who is responsible for daily operations at the site.

The phrase 'acute health condition' is not defined in the Act or MPMR.

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 for an isolated site under a general approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites).

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 (acute health conditions at isolated sites)).

Two (2) standard conditions are prescribed to apply in relation to a general approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites), 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; and
- 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 dealing is carried out under the approval.

Associated guidance documents

- General approvals – factsheet
- Mines - factsheet
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – initial application form and guideline
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – renewal application form
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – amendment application form
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – notice and instrument – standard conditions
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – notice and instrument – changed conditions

Further information

For further information, contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit:

- Email: HARU@health.qld.gov.au