

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Factsheet – current as at September 2021

Emergency management of animals

How does the scheme regulate the emergency management of animals?

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 (emergency management of animals).

A general approval (emergency management of animals) is for the classes of persons mentioned in column 1 of the table below to carry out the dealings mentioned opposite in column 2 for the the emergency care and treatment of sick, injured or orphaned animals.

	Column 1 – Class of person	Column 2 – dealing with medicine
1	a veterinary surgeon working for the holder of an approval	(a) give a purchase order for stock of medicines for a location stated in the approval (b) make a standing order under the approval
2	a senior person at a location stated in the approval, working for the holder of an approval	possess stock of medicines at the location
3	a qualified person working for the holder of an approval	(a) possess stock of medicines (b) administer a medicine on an oral prescription or a standing order from a veterinary surgeon working under the approval
4	a person training to become a qualified person for the holder of an approval	administer or possess a medicine under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon working under the approval
5	a person working for the holder of an approval	possess stock of medicines for working under the approval

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

qualified person means a person who has—

- (a) completed a training course approved by the chief executive about the safe administration of medicines to animals; or

- (b) skills and knowledge equivalent to the competency the person would achieve by completing the training course mentioned in paragraph (a), as stated in writing by a veterinary surgeon.

senior person, at a location stated in a general approval (emergency management of animals), means a person who is responsible for daily operations at the location

The phrase 'emergency management of animals' is not explicitly defined in the Act or MPMR.

Importantly, general approvals are case-by-case approvals which are made 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 a location stated in a general approval (emergency management of animals).

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 (emergency management of animals)).

Two (2) standard conditions are prescribed to apply in relation to a general approval (emergency management of animals):

- the holder of a general approval must appoint a veterinary surgeon who is appropriately qualified to oversee the dealings authorised under the approval; and
- the holder of a general approval must take all reasonable steps to ensure a veterinary surgeon is available to be contacted when a person is likely to be caring for or treating sick, injured or orphaned animals under the approval.

Associated guidance documents

- General approvals - factsheet
- General approval (emergency management of animals) – initial application form and guideline
- General approval (emergency management of animals) – renewal application form
- General approval (emergency management of animals) – amendment application form
- General approval (emergency management of animals) – notice and instrument – standard conditions
- General approval (emergency management of animals) – notice and instrument – changed conditions

Further information

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

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