

# General Approval (Emergency Management of Animals) – Standing Orders

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 – Factsheet October 2022

## Who is this factsheet and template for?

This factsheet is intended to assist a person holding or making application to hold, a general approval (emergency management of animals) to understand requirements about standing orders (for these approvals).

Note: It is not mandatory to use the accompanying standing order template, rather, it provides an example of a standing order specific to a general approval (emergency management of animals).

## Background and relevant legislation

The *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (MPA)* 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 first aid).

Schedule 16, Part 3 of the MPMR specifies the persons, activities and medicines authorised under a general approval (emergency management of animals). The schedule authorises certain classes of persons under the approval (a qualified person working for the holder of an approval) to administer specific medicines under a **standing order** from a veterinary surgeon working under the approval. Classes of persons may have separate training and qualifications and be restricted to certain medicines in accordance with that training.

A 'standing order' is defined in the dictionary of the MPA as:

*standing order*, for a medicine, means a document authorising the medicine to be administered or given as a treatment dose at a stated place or in stated circumstances.

Standard conditions under sections 37 and 38 of the MPMR require the holder of a general approval (emergency management of animals) to appoint a veterinary surgeon who is appropriately qualified to oversee the dealings authorised under the approval and 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.

Section 104 of the MPMR allows a prescriber to make a standing order for the administration of a medicine for a place or circumstance authorised under a general approval (emergency management of animals). A prescriber under this approval type is limited to a veterinary surgeon.

Section 105 of the MPMR only allows a prescriber to make a standing order where they are reasonably satisfied that:

- (a) (a) the order would not allow a person to administer a medicine in a way that exceeds the person's authorisation or training; and
- (b) (b) action taken under the order would be likely to improve the timeliness of treatment and access to care by animals at the place.

The standing order must only apply in relation to one (1) medicine.

Section 106 of the MPMR sets out the required content of a standing order. A template for a standing order for a general approval (emergency management of animals) has been developed to include the mandatory requirements provided in the MPMR.

Section 107 of the MPMR further requires standing orders for a general approval (emergency management of animals) to state that a person proposing to administer a medicine under the order **must first attempt to contact a veterinary surgeon** working under the approval, before administering. The standing order must also state that this requirement does not apply in relation to administration in urgent situations requiring immediate treatment of an animal.

## Making a standing order

In addition to the specific content requirements, all standing orders must be made in writing and must be signed by the prescriber.

Only a qualified person working for the holder of an approval working at a site for an approval can administer an emergency medicine on an oral prescription or a standing order made under the approval.

The general approval (emergency management of animals) standing order template includes the specific content requirements that must be included in a standing order to be used under such an approval.

## Medicines permitted under the standing order

A veterinary surgeon working under the approval can make a standing order for the medicines stated in the approval. A standing order must be made for each medicine that the approval holder will or intends to administer under the approval.

Ordinarily, some or all of the following medicines will be included in a general approval (emergency management of animals), although in other limited circumstances other medicines may be included—

- Alphaxalone
- Zolazepam / Tiletamine
- Acepromazine
- Xylazine
- Pentobarbital

## Inspection and review

In accordance with section 108 of the MPMR, a prescriber must take all reasonable steps to ensure a standing order made by the prescriber is available for inspection at a place to which the order relates by:

- (a) any person who may administer a medicine under the order; and
- (b) the prescriber's employer; and
- (c) the chief executive (or delegate); and
- (d) an inspector; and
- (e) a health ombudsman official.

Section 106(2)(m) of the MPMR requires a standing order template to contain a date, which must be no later than 2 years after the standing order is made, by which it must be reviewed.

## Definitions

Term	Meaning
Administer a medicine	<p>means—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) introduce a dose of the medicine into the body of a person or animal by any means; or</li><li>(b) give a dose of the medicine to a person to be taken immediately.</li></ul> <p>Examples of administering a medicine—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• injecting a medicine into the body of a person or animal</li><li>• putting cream on the skin of a person or animal</li><li>• putting drops into the eyes of a person or animal</li><li>• handing a dose of tablets to a person for the person to swallow immediately</li></ul> <p>Administer, a medicine, does not include dispensing the medicine.</p>
Qualified person	<p>qualified person means a person who has—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) completed a training course approved by the chief executive about the safe administration of medicines to animals; or</li><li>(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.</li></ul>

## Contact us

For further information about this factsheet, please contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit (HARU) at [HARU@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:HARU@health.qld.gov.au).