

Changes to scheduled medicine authorities – Clinical perfusionists

Regulation changes

On 8 November 2018, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (HDPR) was amended to provide new authorities for certain health practitioners in relation to the use of scheduled drugs and poisons. One of these amendments provided new authorities for clinical perfusionists.

Who do these changes apply to?

These changes apply to individuals working in Queensland who are employed as a clinical perfusionists at:

- a Hospital and Health Service
- a private health facility
- a laboratory, or other facility, approved by the chief executive or by a facilities accreditation body approved by the chief executive.

New authorities for clinical perfusionists

The changes authorise clinical perfusionists to the extent necessary to practise perfusion to:

- introduce schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 substances into extracorporeal circulation equipment under a clinical protocol and the supervision of an anaesthetist or cardiothoracic surgeon.

Introduce a controlled drug, restricted drug or poison into extracorporeal circulation equipment, means administer the drug or poison by:

- preparing or mixing the drug or poison to be loaded into the equipment
- preparing the equipment for the drug or poison
- loading the drug or poison into the equipment, whether or not the equipment is connected to a person.

Operationalising these changes

Clinical perfusionists should:

- ensure that they understand the scope of the changes and how this will impact on their clinical practice
- ensure that a clinical protocol is in place for the administration of medicines at the facility in which they practise
- note that individual section 18 approvals to use scheduled medicines are no longer required for those activities now covered by the new provisions in the HDPR.



A **clinical protocol** for a person at a place, means a document:

- stating the circumstances in which the person may use a controlled drug, restricted drug or poison
- stating the procedure for using the controlled drug, restricted drug or poison
- approved by the head of the group in which the person is employed at the place.

For more information

Review the [legislation](#)

Contact the Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland on (07) 3328 9298 or Allied_Health_Advisory@health.qld.gov.au.