

Rescheduling of hyaluronic acid

Information for sonographers and radiographers

Introduction

In April 2018, the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling published their final decision on the rescheduling of hyaluronic acid and its polymers.

The final decision was to amend the Schedule 4 entry for hyaluronic acid as follows:

Schedule 4 – Amended Entry

HYALURONIC ACID AND ITS POLYMERS in preparations for injection or implantation.

This change takes effect on 1 October 2019.

Consequently, all products containing hyaluronic acid for injection will become restricted drugs under the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (HDPR) on 1 October 2019. This includes products intended to be used for intra-articular injection for symptomatic treatment of knee osteoarthritis, which have previously been unscheduled.

When hyaluronic acid for injection becomes a restricted drug, administration must be carried out by a health practitioner who is endorsed under the HDPR to possess and administer restricted drugs, such as a doctor or registered nurse.

What this means for sonographers and radiographers

Sonographers and radiographers do not hold any endorsements under the HDPR to possess or administer scheduled medicines. As such, any sonographers and radiographers currently using hyaluronic acid will no longer be able to be in possession of or administer hyaluronic acid to patients after 1 October 2019.

Sonographers, radiographers or employers who have queries about the scheduling change, can read information about the decision at: www.tga.gov.au/book-page/11-hyaluronic-acid-0 or contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit.

Further information

For enquiries related to medicines regulation under the HDPR, contact:

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