

Factsheet

Prescriber numbers for community pharmacists

The purpose of this factsheet is to provide information about the Queensland community pharmacist prescriber number (**prescriber number**), including instructions for community pharmacists who are intending to register for, or update, a prescriber number.

Key points

- To prescribe medicines in Queensland, a community pharmacist's name must appear on the Queensland community pharmacist prescriber register (the **prescriber register**).
- Pharmacists are required to have completed the relevant training for the prescribing service/s they intend to provide (see *Appendix 1*) before applying for a prescriber number.
- The prescriber register is a publicly searchable register which will be available on the Queensland Health website from 1 July 2025 and can be used to validate the authenticity of a prescription made by a community pharmacist in Queensland.

Pharmacists who currently provide services as part of the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot or the Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot **must update their prescriber number with the prescribing services they have completed training for, prior to 1 July 2025, to maintain their authorisation to prescribe medicines.**

Purpose of the Queensland community pharmacist prescriber number

From 1 July 2025, pharmacists are required to have their name appear on the prescriber register as a condition for prescribing medicines in Queensland.

A prescriber number can be used by the dispenser of the medicine to validate that the prescribing pharmacist is authorised to prescribe the medicine. This is particularly important where the medicine is being dispensed in another pharmacy where the dispenser does not know the qualifications of the prescribing pharmacist.

Queensland community pharmacist prescriber register

The prescriber register maintains a record of all community pharmacists who are authorised to prescribe medicines within Queensland. A dispensing pharmacist can search the prescriber register by entering the pharmacist's name, prescriber number or AHPRA number.

Each record will detail the services that the pharmacist is authorised to prescribe medicines for. **Three categories of prescribing services** will appear on the prescriber register, depending on the training that has been completed by the pharmacist, and on whether they are participating in the Queensland Community Pharmacy Chronic Conditions Management Pilot.

These categories are:

- The Hormonal contraception service
- The General health services
- The Chronic conditions management pilot services.

Registering for a prescriber number

To register for a **new prescriber number**, a pharmacist must meet the training requirements for the prescribing services that they intend to provide. These requirements are described at Appendix 1.

If a pharmacist has met these requirements, they can register for a prescriber number using the [Prescriber number registration form](#). The pharmacist will be required to provide details including their full name, date of birth, AHPRA registration number and personal contact details, along with the details of the training they have completed.

The pharmacist's **full name and AHPRA registration number** are visible on the prescriber register, along with the category/ies of prescribing services they have completed the required training for.

Updating or removing a prescriber number

Register prescribing services against an existing prescriber number

Pharmacists who have previously been allocated a prescriber number (including as part of a Queensland Community Pharmacy Pilot), can update their prescriber number with the category/ies of prescribing services they have completed training for using the [Prescriber number registration form](#).

If a pharmacist already has a prescriber number, they should select the option to **include additional services** against an existing prescriber number.

ALL pharmacists with an existing prescriber number who intend to provide prescribing services must ensure that their prescriber number is updated with the categories of prescribing services that they intend to deliver, **prior to commencing service delivery**.

Remove a prescriber number

Pharmacists can remove their prescriber number record from the prescriber register through the [Prescriber number registration form](#) by selecting the option to **remove an existing prescriber number**. This will remove the pharmacist's name from the prescriber register.

Community pharmacists who remove their name from the prescriber register cannot prescribe medicines in Queensland.

Should the pharmacist wish to recommence prescribing medicines, they will be required to register to have their prescriber number appear on the prescriber register. To do this, the pharmacist is required to apply for a prescriber number through the Prescriber number registration form.

Frequently asked questions

Q: I am a community pharmacist. Do I need to have a prescriber number to prescribe medicines?

A: Yes. From 1 July 2025, to provide any prescribing service in Queensland you must have a prescriber number, and your name must appear on the prescriber register for the services you are authorised to provide.

For example, if you meet the training requirements for the hormonal contraception service, you must have a prescriber number, and your name must appear on the prescriber register for the hormonal contraception service.

Q: Do I need a prescriber number to provide Urinary Tract Infection services?

A: No, pharmacists who are providing the Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service are not prescribing medicines (and hence not creating prescriptions), and do not require a prescriber number.

Q: I was issued with a prescriber number under the Scope of Practice Pilot and/or the Hormonal Contraception Pilot, will I need to apply for another?

A: If you have already been issued with a prescriber number by Queensland Health, this prescriber number will not change. However, you must update your prescriber number with the categories of prescribing services that you have completed training for so that these categories appear against your name on the prescriber register.

Q: I have a prescriber number, do I still need to register to appear on the prescriber register?

A: Yes, you do. Because your full name and your AHPRA registration number will appear on the prescriber register, you need to consent to the use of your information for that purpose, through the Pharmacist prescriber number registration form.

You must also update your prescriber number with the categories of prescribing services that you have completed training for so that these categories appear against your name on the prescriber register.

Q: Is a Queensland community pharmacist prescriber number valid outside of Queensland?

A: No, prescriber numbers that have been issued by Queensland Health are not valid outside of Queensland.

Q: Where can I find the prescriber register?

A: The prescriber register will be published on the [Queensland Health website](#) from 1 July 2025.

More information

For further information contact the Office of the Chief Allied Health Officer via email qld-pharmacyscopepilot@health.qld.gov.au

Appendix 1 – Training requirements for community pharmacist prescribing services

Training requirements for the Hormonal contraception service

Pharmacists must successfully complete a training program that includes and assesses the requirements specified in 1 and 2 below.

1. Learning objectives on anatomy and physiology as relevant to the provision of a hormonal contraception service, the physiology of reproductive hormones and contraception methods, the mechanisms of action, efficacy, and suitability of various contraceptive methods, contraceptive counselling and decision-making, patient assessment and formulation of treatment plans that are aligned with individual patient needs, preferences, medical history and cultural considerations, and the pharmacist's scope of practice for the Hormonal Contraception Community Pharmacy Service as described in Part 3 of this EPA; and
2. Prescribing competencies from the current version of the National Prescribing Service 'Prescribing Competencies Framework' relevant to providing a comprehensive hormonal contraception service including communication, history-taking, assessment, the prescribing process, and development of a treatment and sexual health plan.

A training program comprising of both training requirements specified in 1 and 2 above must be:

1. a training program developed for the Queensland Community Pharmacy Hormonal Contraception Pilot; or
2. a training program delivered by a higher accreditation institution accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency; or
3. a training program delivered by a training provider that meets the Australian Pharmacy Council's 'Standards for Continuing Professional Development Activities'.

Once training has been completed and they meet the other requirements to prescribe medicines, the pharmacist must apply for a prescriber number online

Training requirements for General health services

Pharmacists must successfully complete a training program comprising both training requirements specified in 1 and 2 below, or a training program developed for the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

1. A prescribing training program accredited to meet the standards set by the Australian Pharmacy Council's 'Accreditation Standards for Pharmacist Prescriber Education Programs'; and
2. A clinical skills training program that includes and assesses:
 - a. learning objectives on the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to provide a comprehensive health service including ethical considerations, professional responsibilities, clinical documentation and professional communication; and

- b. learning objectives on epidemiology, anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology as relevant to the provision of all health services listed below, including the clinical assessment, diagnosis, therapeutic and non-therapeutic management and formulation of treatment plans that align with individual patient needs, preferences, medical history, and cultural considerations.

Health services that must be included within the training program include: acute exacerbations of mild plaque psoriasis, acute nausea and vomiting associated with gastroenteritis, acute minor wound management, acute otitis externa, acute otitis media, allergic and nonallergic rhinitis, gastro-oesophageal reflux and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, impetigo, management for overweight and obesity, mild to moderate acne, mild to moderate atopic dermatitis, mild, acute, musculoskeletal pain, shingles, treatment of nicotine dependence, and travel health.

A training program comprising of both training requirements specified in 1 and 2 above must be a tertiary-level study program equivalent to Australian Qualifications Framework Level 8, and must be delivered through either:

1. higher education institution that is accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency; or
2. an institution that is accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority.

Training requirements for the Chronic conditions management pilot services

An approved training program is a course delivered through an education institution accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency or the Australian Skills Quality Authority, comprising two components – a **prescribing training component** and a **clinical training component**.

Prescribing training component - covering the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the National Prescribing Service (NPS) Medicinewise Prescribing Competencies Framework 2nd edition. Assessment must include the essential competencies of clinical therapeutics, safe prescribing and quality use of medicines.

- a. The prescribing training component must include an appropriate work-integrated learning and supervised practice component. The pharmacist must be supervised by an authorised prescriber for this element.
- b. The current approved prescribing training component programs are:
 - i. The Queensland University of Technology *Safe prescribing and quality use of medicines* course.
 - ii. The James Cook University *Extended community practice for pharmacists* course (subject code PC6300).
 - iii. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia *Pharmacist prescribing scope of practice training program*.

Clinical training component - covering clinical assessment, diagnosis and management of the conditions included within the scope of the Pilot. Assessment must include the essential

competencies in the steps leading to accurate diagnosis and management of the Pilot services namely communication, history, examination, diagnosis and treatment.

- c. The clinical training component must include an appropriate face to face practical skills component.
- d. The current approved clinical training component programs are:
 - i. The James Cook University *Extended community practice for pharmacists* course (subject codes PC6100 and PC6200).
 - ii. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia *Pharmacist prescribing scope of practice training program*.

The approved training program can be an integrated study program including both the prescribing and clinical training components or may be separate study programs that provide these two components. Separate study programs may be delivered by the same or different providers.