Queensland regulatory requirements for medical practitioners prescribing Schedule 8 (S8) medicines

- S8 prescriptions are valid for six months.
- A S8 prescription is valid if the following information is provided:
  - full name, professional qualifications and address of the prescriber
  - full name, address and date of birth of the patient
  - the description and quantity (in words and figures) of the medicine to be dispensed
  - adequate directions for use
  - the number of repeats (if any) and the intervals at which they may be dispensed
  - the words ‘specified condition’ if the S8 drug prescribed is an amphetamine, dexamfetamine, methylamphetamine, methylphenidate or lisdexamfetamine
  - the signature of the prescriber.
- For computer generated S8 paper prescriptions the information highlighted must also be written in the doctor's own handwriting.
- Only one S8 medication can be written on the one prescription, except where multiple items are different forms of the same drug.
- No other prescription medication can be written on a S8 prescription.
- A treatment approval from the Chief Executive is required prior to treating with:
  - any controlled drug for a patient considered to be drug dependent
  - any ‘specified condition drug’ other than for attention deficit disorder in a child or for treatment of narcolepsy.
- Prescribers giving a faxed S8 prescription must telephone and confirm details of the prescription to the pharmacist within 24 hours.
- The prescriber must send to the dispenser the paper prescription by post or hand within seven days.
- S8 prescriptions must not be written by a prescriber for self administration.

For treatment approvals contact the Monitored Medicines Unit 13 S8INFO Enquiry Service:
Phone: 13 78 46
Fax: 07 3708 5431
Email: mmu@health.qld.gov.au

Medical practitioners will need to check the status of their prescriptions in relation to PBS regulatory requirements with Medicare Australia.