

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Factsheet – current as at September 2021

Mines

What are the definitions of mine and mine manager?

The Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 (MPMR) defines mine as:

a place where activities are permitted under:

- (a) a mining tenement within the meaning of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, other than a prospecting permit or water monitoring authority within the meaning of that Act; or
- (b) a GHG authority within the meaning of the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*; or
- (c) a geothermal tenure within the meaning of the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010*; or
- (d) a petroleum authority under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, other than an authority to prospect or water monitoring authority within the meaning of that Act.

A mine manager is a person who is in charge of a mine.

How is a mine manager authorised to deal with medicines?

One of the ways under the Act for a person to be authorised to carry out regulated activities with regulated substances is if they are an ‘approved person’.

An approved person is a member of a class of persons prescribed under a regulation for a regulated activity with a regulated substance for the class of persons.

For mines, such authority is derived from Schedule 13, Part 6 of the MPMR.

What dealings does this authority permit?

The table below describes what dealings a mine manager is authorised to undertake with specified medicines:

	Column 1 - dealing	Column 1 - medicine	Column 1 – scope of dealing
1	give a purchase order	stock of an S4 inhaled analgesic	the purchase order is given for the medicines for the first aid treatment of persons at the mine
2	possess	stock of an S4 inhaled analgesic	the stock is possessed at the mine

A mine's first aid provider is a first aid provider employed at a mine who has completed training from a registered training organisation about using an S4 inhaled analgesic.

The table below describes what dealings a mine's first aid provider is authorised to undertake with specified medicines:

	Column 1 - dealing	Column 1 - medicine	Column 1 – scope of dealing
1	administer	(a) an S4 inhaled analgesic that does not include methoxyflurane	the purchase order is given for the medicines for the first aid treatment of persons at the mine
		(b) an S4 inhaled analgesic that includes methoxyflurane	the medicine is administered— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the first aid treatment of a person at the mine; and • in 1 dose of no greater than 3 millilitres unless the medicine is administered on a prescription
2	possess	a medicine mentioned in this column	the medicine is possessed for administration to a person at the mine

How can a mine manager purchase medicines?

Any person, including a mine manager who is authorised to purchase a scheduled medicine must do so using a purchase order. The MPMR prescribes specific requirements that must be included in purchase orders in Chapter 4, Part 3.

Where can a mine manager purchase medicines?

A mine manager may purchase medicines using a purchase order, from a person who is authorised to supply medicines. Generally, such purchases are made from licensed wholesalers of scheduled medicines or from pharmacists.

What about general approvals (acute health conditions at isolated sites)?

Importantly, general approvals are case-by-case approvals which are made by the chief executive of Queensland Health (or delegate), after an application is made by relevant persons/entities. General approvals are not automatically granted under the MPMR.

A separate factsheet and other guidance materials are available about general approvals (acute health conditions at isolate sites), as isolated sites, under the MPMR, include mine sites.

Associated guidance documents

- General approvals – factsheet
- Acute health conditions at isolated sites - factsheet
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – initial application form and guideline
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – renewal application form
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – amendment application form
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – notice and instrument – standard conditions
- General approval (acute health conditions at isolated sites) – notice and instrument – changed conditions

Further information

For further information, contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit:

- Email: HARU@health.qld.gov.au