

# Practice Alert - Regulatory parameters for community pharmacist prescribing activities

## PRACTICE ALERT: Queensland Community Pharmacy Prescribing

### Key point

Pharmacists must ensure they are **familiar** and **compliant** with the requirements, circumstances and conditions for prescribing medicines under the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021* (the Medicines Regulation) and the relevant Extended Practice Authorities (EPAs).

### Background

Prescribing authorisations enable community pharmacists in Queensland with appropriate training to prescribe medicines under the Medicines Regulation and the relevant EPAs. This includes:

- the [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists](#) for the Hormonal contraception service and the General health services.
- the [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists – Chronic conditions management pilot](#) (EPA-Chronic conditions) for services delivered through the Queensland Community Pharmacy Chronic Conditions Management Pilot.

Pharmacists **must** be aware of the specific requirements, circumstances and conditions for prescribing medicines, as they differ between each EPA. This includes **adherence to age restrictions applicable to specific indications** (e.g. the age restrictions for the indication of 'Asthma – management of asthma symptoms' are between 16 and 65 years). **Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes a breach of the regulation.**

### Understanding the EPAs

For information on how to understand the EPAs relevant to prescribing for community pharmacists, refer to the [Prescribing for Queensland community pharmacists - Explanatory Guide](#).

As outlined in the EPAs, a pharmacist must only prescribe a medicine:

- for an **approved indication, AND**
- **subject to the restrictions stated** for that indication (e.g. patient age), **AND**
- that is mentioned in the current online version of the **specified section of the Therapeutic Guidelines** for the indication. For the chronic conditions management services, the medicine must also be from the pharmacological class listed in the EPA-Chronic conditions, for the approved indication.

### Resources

- [Prescribing for Queensland community pharmacists - Explanatory Guide](#)
- [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists](#)
- [Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists – Chronic conditions management pilot](#)