

Changes to scheduled medicine authorities – Endorsed optometrists

The authority in the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (the HDPR) for optometrists with a national scheduled medicine endorsement provides that the practice must occur under an Ocular Therapeutics Protocol.

Regulation changes

On 8 November 2018, the HDPR was amended to provide new authorities for certain health practitioners in relation to the use of scheduled drugs and poisons. This included changes to the way in which authorities for optometrists with a national endorsement are provided. **The changes remove the requirement for endorsed optometrists to practise under the Ocular Therapeutics Protocol and removes the restriction on prescribing ‘registered medicines’.**

Who do these changes apply to?

These changes apply to endorsed optometrists working in Queensland. An endorsed optometrist is an optometrist whose registration is endorsed under section 94 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as being qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use a scheduled medicine required for optometry practice.

New authorities for endorsed optometrists

The changes authorise endorsed optometrists, to the extent necessary to practise optometry, to:

- obtain, possess, prescribe, administer or supply a drug listed in an appendix B or C of the ‘Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines’ published by the Optometry Board of Australia
- give someone who may administer or supply a drug listed in appendix B or C of the ‘Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines’ published by the Optometry Board of Australia a written instruction to administer or supply the drug or poison.

These authorities are in addition to the endorsed optometrist’s authority as an optometrist under the HDPR.

Operationalising these changes

Endorsed optometrists should:

- ensure that they understand the scope of the changes and how this will impact on their clinical practice
- also review the changes to the HDPR in relation to authorities for optometrists



- note that individual section 18 approvals to prescribe compounded medicines are no longer required as this activity is now covered by the new provisions in the HDPR.

For more information

Review the [legislation](#)

Contact the Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland on (07) 3328 9298 or Allied_Health_Advisory@health.qld.gov.au.