

# Changes to scheduled medicine authorities – Physiotherapists

Physiotherapists working in Queensland are authorised under section 259 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (HDPR) to administer schedule 2 substances to the extent necessary to practise physiotherapy.

## 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. One of these amendments extended the authorities for physiotherapists.

## Who do these changes apply to?

These changes apply to physiotherapists working in Queensland who are registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in the physiotherapy profession. Some of the new authorisations apply only to physiotherapists working in a hospital.

## New authorities for physiotherapists

The changes authorise physiotherapists to the extent necessary to practise physiotherapy to:

- administer a S3 poison that is an analgesic or a bronchodilator on the written instruction of a doctor, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant **or** if the drug has been lawfully dispensed or supplied for the person it is administered to
- possess and administer a restricted drug to treat respiratory conditions under the written instruction of an authorised prescriber **or** if the drug has been lawfully dispensed or supplied for the person to whom it is administered. Such drugs are designed to clear a person's airway for the physiotherapy treatment of a respiratory condition. For example, a bronchodilator designed to be inhaled
- possess and administer a nitrous oxide mixture **in a hospital** on the written instruction of a doctor, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.

## Operationalising these changes

Physiotherapists should:

- ensure that they understand the scope of the changes and how this will impact on their clinical practice
- note that individual section 18 approvals to use scheduled medicines are no longer required for those activities now covered by the new provisions in 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](mailto:Allied_Health_Advisory@health.qld.gov.au).