

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Factsheet – current as at September 2021

First Aid Providers

How are first aid providers authorised to deal with medicines?

One of the ways under the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (MPA)* 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 first aid providers, such authority is given under Schedule 5, Part 2 of the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 (MPMR)*.

What dealings does this authority allow?

A person who has a current certificate granted by a registered training organisation for the provision of first aid is a '**first aid provider**'. The type of training required will depend on the type of medicine the first aid provider intends to possess and administer. The following table describes the medicines a first aid provider can possess and administer and the training or other limitations relevant to that medicine.

Medicine	Scope of dealing
adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector	the first aid provider has completed anaphylaxis training
inhaled asthma reliever, other than an S4 medicine	the first aid provider has completed asthma training
Methoxyflurane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the first aid provider has completed methoxyflurane training; and the medicine is administered on a prescription
naloxone	the first aid provider has completed naloxone training

The following terms are important to consider in the context of the table above:

- anaphylaxis training** means training in the following matters—

- a recognition of the symptoms and signs of anaphylaxis;
 - b knowledge of the appropriate use of adrenaline (epinephrine), including competency in using an adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector;
 - c implementing an anaphylaxis first aid plan.
- **asthma training** means training in the following matters—
 - a recognition of the symptoms and signs of asthma;
 - b knowledge of the appropriate use of asthma reliever medication, including competency in using a spacer device;
 - c implementing an asthma first aid plan.
- methoxyflurane training means training in the use and administration of methoxyflurane provided by a registered training organisation.
- **naloxone training** means training in the following matters—
 - a recognition of the symptoms and signs of suspected opioid overdose;
 - b knowledge of the appropriate use of naloxone, including competency in administering naloxone;
 - c implementing an opioid first aid plan.
- prescription means a direction by a doctor or nurse practitioner, either orally or in writing, to administer the medicine for the treatment of a person (this does not include a standing order).

Please refer to Chapter 4, Part 6, Division 4 of the MPMR.

How does a first aid provider buy stock of a medicine?

A first aid provider can buy an adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector, naloxone and an inhaled asthma reliever, other than an S4 medicine. However, a first aid provider must have a doctor or nurse practitioner buy methoxyflurane on their behalf as it is a schedule 4 medicine.

Any person authorised to buy a scheduled medicine must do so using a purchase order. There are specific requirements in the MPMR about the details required to be on a purchase order.

Where can a first aid provider buy medicines?

A first aid provider can buy stock of a medicine (other than methoxyflurane), using a purchase order, from a person who is authorised to supply to them, such as a licensed wholesaler of scheduled medicines or from a pharmacist.

Note: under previous legislation, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*, sale by a pharmacist of S2 or S3 medicines was limited to the person who was the user of the medicine. This is no longer the case under the MPMR, and a pharmacist (or a licensed wholesaler) can sell an S2 or S3 medicine to a person who is authorised to administer the medicine, such as a first aid provider.

Other obligations

A first aid provider will require compliance with storage and record keeping relevant to the schedule of the medicine bought and administered.

Associated guidance documents

- *Mines* – factsheet
- *Authorisations and activities* – factsheet

Further information

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

Email: HARU@health.qld.gov.au