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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Scope of dealing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector</td>
<td>the first aid provider has completed anaphylaxis training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inhaled asthma reliever, other than an S4 medicine</td>
<td>the first aid provider has completed asthma training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methoxyflurane</td>
<td>• the first aid provider has completed methoxyflurane training; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the medicine is administered on a prescription</td>
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<tr>
<td>naloxone</td>
<td>the first aid provider has completed naloxone training</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following term 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:
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