

Changes to scheduled medicine authorities – Optometrists

The authority in the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (HDPR) for optometrists to obtain, possess and administer specified substances to the extent necessary to practise optometry is provided by listing individual medicines in the HDPR.

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 are provided. **The changes remove the list of individual medicines from the HDPR.**

Who do these changes apply to?

These changes apply to optometrists working in Queensland who are registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practice in the optometry profession.

New authorities for optometrists

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

- obtain, possess and administer a drug listed in appendix A of the 'Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines' published by the Optometry Board of Australia.

Operationalising these changes

Optometrists should:

- ensure that they understand the scope of the changes and how this will impact on their clinical practice.

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.

