

Changes to scheduled medicine authorities – Respiratory Scientists

Regulation changes

On 8 November 2018, the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (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 provided new authorities for respiratory scientists.

Who do these changes apply to?

These changes apply to individuals working in Queensland who are employed as a respiratory scientist at:

- a Hospital and Health Service
- a private health facility
- a laboratory, or other facility, approved by the chief executive or by a facilities accreditation body approved by the chief executive.

New authorities for respiratory scientists

The changes authorise respiratory scientists, at a place where the scientist performs a test, to:

- administer under a clinical protocol schedule 2 and 3 poisons and specified schedule 4 restricted drugs including an anti-histamine for systemic use, a bronchodilator designed to be administered by inhalation and/or a bronchoconstrictor agent
- administer adrenalin of a strength not more than 0.1%, if administered by a pre-loaded device for the management of anaphylaxis if **the respiratory scientist has completed a certified course of training relating to the first aid management of anaphylaxis.**

Operationalising these changes

Respiratory scientists should:

- ensure that they understand the scope of the changes and how this will impact on their clinical practice
- ensure that a clinical protocol is in place for the administration of medicines at the facility in which they practise
- note that individual section 18 approvals to use scheduled medicines are no longer required for those activities now covered by the new provisions in the HDPR.



A **clinical protocol** for a person at a place, means a document:

- stating the circumstances in which the person may use a controlled drug, restricted drug or poison
- stating the procedure for using the controlled drug, restricted drug or poison
- approved by the head of the group in which the person is employed at the place.

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.