

Changes to scheduled medicine authorities – Speech pathologists

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 speech pathologists.

Who do these changes apply to?

These changes apply to speech pathologists working in Queensland who have completed a certified course of training relating to the safe administration of medicines and are employed as a speech pathologist at:

- a Hospital and Health Service
- another government entity under section 24 of the *Public Service Act 2008*
- a private health facility.

The changes also apply to an individual who is accredited or certified to work as a speech pathologist by a professional body approved by the chief executive.

New authorities for speech pathologists

The changes authorise speech pathologists, to the extent necessary to practise speech pathology, to:

- administer, on the written instruction of a doctor, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant, schedule 2 and 3 poisons and specified schedule 4 restricted drugs including an antibiotic for dermatological use, or a corticosteroid for topical use
- administer adrenalin of a strength not more than 0.1%, if administered by a pre-loaded device for the management of anaphylaxis

To ensure these medications are administered safely, speech pathologists must first undertake appropriate training in the safe administration of medicines. This training includes training relating to the first aid management of anaphylaxis.

Operationalising these changes

Speech pathologists 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 the 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.