

Safe administration of medicines by speech pathologists

Purpose

To advise of the required learning objectives for medication safety courses in order for speech pathologists to meet Queensland Health requirements for the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (the HDPR).

Background

The HDPR allows for speech pathologists 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 of 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 working in Queensland must first undertake appropriate training in the safe administration of medicines. This training includes training relating to the first aid management of anaphylaxis.

Course requirements

Courses are required to cover the following training and competency assessment:

1. relevant pharmacology/therapeutics understanding (pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and therapeutic responses)
2. medication safety concepts and how to minimise medication error
3. immediate response to an acute adverse drug event.

The following table lists the critical outcomes and specific learning objectives that must be achieved.

Table 1 Critical outcomes and specific learning objectives for speech pathologists administering medicines

Critical outcome	Specific learning objective
<p>1. Relevant pharmacology/therapeutics understanding (pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and therapeutic responses)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of clinical indications for use of specified medicines • Knowledge of potential adverse reactions for specified medicines • Knowledge of precautions and contraindications for specified medicines
<p>2. Medication safety concepts and how to minimise medication error</p>	<p>Medication safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of medication safety • Understanding the types and causes of medication errors • Understanding wrong drug errors • Understanding wrong route errors • Understanding formulation errors • Communicating for safety <p>Quality use of medicines for health professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the principles of quality use of medicines • Understanding the roles different health professionals play in promoting the quality use of medicines
<p>3. Immediate response to an acute adverse drug event</p>	<p>Anaphylaxis and its management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of anaphylaxis • Knowledge of epidemiology • Knowledge of the diagnosis of allergy and anaphylaxis • Knowledge of the acute management of anaphylaxis • Knowledge of adrenaline autoinjectors • Knowledge of the ongoing management of patients at risk of anaphylaxis • Knowledge of the management of allergy to stings and bites • Knowledge of the management of asthma and anaphylaxis <p>Basic life support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of how to perform basic life support in an emergency

Courses and training

Individuals need to ensure the content of the training they undertake satisfies the HDPR requirements. This should include:

- that the critical outcomes and specific learning objectives are addressed, as per Table 1
- that a certificate and/or document be provided that identifies successful completion of the training.

Certificates and/or documents

A certificate and/or document must be held by a speech pathologist wishing to administer medications, as specified by the HDPR.

The certificate and/or document needs to clearly provide evidence of:

- the person's name
- the specific learning objectives
- the successful completion of all training elements.

For more information please contact:

For enquiries related to the HDPR, contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit, Chief Medical Officer and Healthcare Regulation Branch, Prevention Division, Department of Health.

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