

POISONS CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET

No. 306

SELF PRESCRIPTION AND SELF ADMINISTRATION OF SCHEDULE 8 AND RESTRICTED SCHEDULE 4 SUBSTANCES

The Northern Territory (NT) in line with other Australian jurisdictions has legislation prohibiting medical practitioners, dentists or veterinarians from prescribing substances that have the potential to cause dependence to themselves.

The Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act ('the Act') includes:

72. No self-prescription of Schedule 8 (S8) or restricted Schedule 4 (S4) substances

A medical practitioner, dentist or veterinarian must not issue to himself or herself a prescription for the supply of a S8 substance or restricted S4 substance.

Penalty: 500 penalty units.

73. No self-administration of Schedule 8 or restricted Schedule 4 substances

(1) A person permitted by this Act to possess or supply a S8 substance or restricted S4 substance must not administer the substance to himself or herself unless the substance has been lawfully supplied to the person by another person.

Penalty: 500 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years.

(2) A person permitted by this Act to possess or supply a S8 substance or a restricted S4 substance may supply and administer that substance to himself or herself –

(a) for a genuine therapeutic use in an emergency when the person has no access to any other person who may lawfully supply or administer the substance to him or her; or

(b) under any other circumstance specified by the Regulations.

At present there are no restricted S4 substances.

There is no law in place that prohibits medical practitioners, dentists and veterinarians from prescribing S8 substances to their family members. However the Medical Board of the NT strongly recommends that medical practitioners do not supply S8 substances to their family members.

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS NT)

1800 131 350

If you have concerns regarding drug dependence you are encouraged to contact ADIS NT, which provides information, counselling and referral for people of the Northern Territory. This free and confidential service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For further details please contact:

Poison Control

Phone: (08) 8922 7341

Fax: (08) 8922 7200