

Health Protection Division
Poisons Control, Environmental Health Program
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Dear Pharmacist

Welcome to the Northern Territory!

This information pack has been compiled to give you some background on pharmacy related legal references and requirements.

- You will need to have available a current copy of the *Health Practitioners Act* and the *Poisons & Dangerous Drugs Act (& Regulations)* at your workplace.

An official copy may be purchased from the Printing and Publishing Branch (8999 4031) or a non-official copy accessed on the website <http://www.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislation/current.html>

- The NT follows national poisons scheduling as detailed in the 'Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons' (SUSDP).
- There is a Notification Scheme for S8 Contracts operating in the NT, with most pharmacies participating. A letter detailing the scheme is attached.
- As of 25 September 2002 Methadone Liquid and Buprenorphine for both maintenance and withdrawal in the treatment of drug dependence became available in the NT. It is mandatory for patients receiving opiate pharmacotherapy treatment to sign a contract with the prescriber and take part in the contract notification scheme.
- In the event of a drug loss or discrepancy incident in your workplace there is an official request for this information to be faxed to Poisons Control. A letter detailing this request is attached.
- The current legislation for control of supply of Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 substances began on 1 February 2005. Full details are available on the Department of Health and Families (DHF) Poisons Control webpage <http://www.nt.gov.au/health/poisonscontrol>.
- In April 2008 the Northern Territory mandated the recording of certain details for retail sales of Schedule 3 pseudoephedrine products by pharmacists. The preferred option for recording these details is the real-time online application Project STOP. A letter detailing this mandate is attached.
- As of September 2008 NT pharmacies have had access to a secure internet based web system allowing them to download and upload confidential data. A letter detailing the Poisons Control S8 Website (previously called DMS Web System) is attached.
- Details of all Schedule 8 supplies from your pharmacy (prescriptions plus any other supplies such as for medical kits, remote health centres, doctors bags etc) must be sent to the Chief Poisons Inspector, Poisons Control, PO Box 40596, Casuarina NT 0811 within 7 days of supply. Please mark envelope as Confidential. In practice we

expect to receive prescriptions (with a summary printout and the data file to be sent via DMS Web System) on a weekly basis from each community pharmacy.

- It is recommended that all pharmacies balance the Schedule 8 register at least every seven days, and also when there is a change of pharmacist in charge. An ideal time to balance is when the Schedule 8 return is being compiled. Please note the restricted S8s Methadone liquid, Subutex and Suboxone need to be balanced daily.

Any questions are most welcome. Please contact the poisons inspectors on 8922 7341 or the Pharmacy Board on 8999 2865.

Yours sincerely

Miranda Batten
A/Manager Poisons Control
2 March 2009