

Health Protection Division
Poisons Control, Environmental Health Program
Postal Address: PO Box 40596
Casuarina NT 0811
Tel: (08) 8922 7341
Fax: (08) 8922 7200
email: poisonscontrol@nt.gov.au

Dear Pharmacist,

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 using the attached form.

This information is requested under Section 9 of the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*, which lists the powers of inspectors. Section 9(e) specifically empowers a Poisons Inspector to question the owner/occupier or employee of premises dealing with scheduled substances.

Incidents of interest relate to substances which may potentially be abused or diverted (such as Schedule 8s, benzodiazepines, anabolic steroids, analgesics and pseudoephedrine), and include:

- pharmacy S8 register discrepancies,
- discrepancies in contract clients medications held at the pharmacy,
- incorrect supply by wholesalers,
- theft by staff,
- break-ins,
- forgeries, and
- Dispensing and prescribing errors for S8s.

With a number of pharmacies now involved with servicing nursing homes, and health centres via the S100 scheme, and conducting visits to these facilities, the form may also be used if any drug related problems are detected during these visits.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call one of the Poisons Officers or myself.

Yours sincerely

Helgi Stone
Chief Poisons Inspector
2 March 2009