

Chief Health Officer

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Dear Pharmacist

POISONS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT – SECTION 31W
EDITION 2 OF THE S8 AND RESTRICTED S4 SUBSTANCES POLICY AND CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

I am writing to inform pharmacists of the imminent publication of the new edition of the S8 Guidelines. These Guidelines will be in force from the date of publication in the NT Government Gazette, which is expected to be the 30 April 2008.

The prescribing and supply of Schedule 8 medications must conform with these Guidelines as required under section 31X of the Act.

The major change is the extension of validity of prescriptions for dexamphetamine and methylphenidate from 2 months to 6 months. This will bring the Territory into line with other jurisdictions for these items.

Please note that there is no change to the validity of other S8 prescriptions, which remains at 2 months.

Medical and Pharmacy software suppliers have already been informed, so updating of your software files should be underway.

Edition 2 of the Guidelines will be available shortly on the following webpage

www.nt.gov.au/health/poisonscontrol

If you have any queries or concerns regarding any aspect of the Guidelines, please contact the Manager of Poisons Control Ms Helgi Stone on 8922 7341.

Yours sincerely

Dr Steven Skov

Chief Health Officer

16 April 08