

## POISONS CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET

No. 316

### *RETAILERS OF SCHEDULE 2 MEDICINES IN REMOTE AREAS*

Schedule 2 (S2) medicines are defined as pharmacy only medicines. This is as they may require professional advice to be used correctly or safely. They are therefore normally only available for direct sale to the public from pharmacies. They can also be provided by other health professionals such as general practitioners or from health clinics.

In remote areas of the Northern Territory pharmacies are not readily accessible. As a result, remote area retailers who are more than 40 km away by road from a pharmacy may be licensed to sell S2 medicines such as paracetamol drops for babies and certain cough and cold remedies.

Your licence must be displayed in or on the premises specified on the licence.

More potent medicines listed in Schedule 3 (Pharmacist Only Medicines) are not permitted to be supplied, except by registered health professionals.

Retailers of S2 medicines need to be prepared to refer customers to appropriate health personnel for advice on safe use and suitability of medication. It would be appropriate to come to an arrangement with the local prescriber or health clinic as to the range of medications stocked.

Retailers also need to ensure that S2 medicines are:

- stored at correct temperatures to ensure potency
- not tampered with by the public
- in good condition with labels visible and
- well within their expiry dates when sold.

Requests for large quantities of any S2 medicines should be viewed with concern, as all S2 medicines are for the relief of minor and temporary ailments only. Persons making frequent purchases or asking for large amounts should be referred to their medical adviser.

For further details please contact:

**Poison Control**

**Phone:** (08) 8922 7341

**Fax:** (08) 8922 7200