

## POISONS CONTROL INFORMATION SHEET

No. 323

### EXPLANATION OF KEY TASKS - PHARMACY SPECIFIC

Poisons Control is responsible for the monitoring and control of supply of Poisons (scheduled substances) and Therapeutic Goods in the Northern Territory.

Key tasks include:

- issuing of licences, registrations and authorisations for medical kits, wholesalers, retailers, manufacturers and Pest Control Operators under legislation
- inspections of wholesaler, retailer, manufacturer, Pest Control Operator, hospital, veterinarian, health clinic and pharmacy premises for Legislation compliance (including storage, record keeping, packaging, labelling, advertising and supply)
- scheduling of poisons (including medicines)
- recalls of therapeutic goods
- monitoring of Schedule 8 drug movements
- issuing of authorisations for the NT Opiate Pharmacotherapy Program and
- secretariat support for the Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 Substances Clinical Advisory Committee.

Section 36 (3) of the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act* (PaDDA) requires:

A pharmacist or other person who supplies a Schedule 8 substance shall, within 7 days after that supply, forward to the Chief Health Officer –

(a) the cancelled prescription or a copy of the authority on which he or she supplied the substance; or

(b) where a prescription authorises supply on a later occasion – a copy of the prescription.

Penalty: If the offender is a natural person – 20 penalty units.

If the offender is a body corporate – 100 penalty units.

An electronic database maintained by Poisons Control stores all S8 supply information received from pharmacists and other suppliers of S8s.

This essential information is accessed through Poisons Control by the Chief Health Officer (CHO), the Schedule 8 and Restricted Schedule 4 Substances Clinical Advisory Committee (the Committee) who advise the CHO on all matters relating to S8s, prescribers in the NT and interstate, national committees, the Medical Board of the NT, the Coroner's Office etc.

Section 9 (d) of PaDDA allows an inspector to:

Inspect and take copies of, or extracts from, records required to be kept under this Act.

The request for information faxes sent to pharmacies may relate to information requested on behalf of the Coroner's Office, the Committee, Alcohol and Other Drugs (ADS), the Medical Board of the NT etc.

Poisons Control do not send out request for information faxes lightly and appreciate the effort it takes for pharmacists to collate the requested information.

For further details please contact:

**Poison Control**

**Phone:** (08) 8922 7341

**Fax:** (08) 8922 7200