



Non-medical prescribing

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Date: 27 October 2010

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Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009

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• Categories of registration

- General
- Provisional
- Non-practising
- Limited
- Specialist – for medicine, dentists, others on application (physiotherapy & psychiatry). Use of title restricted.

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Sec 14 Approval of endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines



- (1) The Ministerial Council may, on the recommendation of a National Board, decide that the Board may endorse the registration of health practitioners practising the profession for which the Board is established as being qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use a scheduled medicine or class of scheduled medicines.

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Sec 14 Approval of endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines cont.



- (2) An approval under subsection (1) is to specify—
 - (a) the class of health practitioners registered by the Board to which the approval relates; and
 - (b) whether the National Board may endorse the registration of the class of health practitioners as being qualified in relation to a particular scheduled medicine or a class of scheduled medicines; and
 - (c) whether the National Board may endorse the registration of the class of health practitioners in relation to administering, obtaining, possessing, prescribing, selling, supplying or using the scheduled medicine or class of scheduled medicines.

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• S.94 Endorsement for scheduled medicines

- (1) A National Board may, in accordance with an approval given by the Ministerial Council under section 14, endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner registered by the Board as being qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use a scheduled medicine or class of scheduled medicines if the practitioner—

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- (a) **holds either of the following qualifications relevant to the endorsement—**
 - (i) **an approved qualification;**
 - (ii) **another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is **substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification;** and**
- (b) **complies with any approved registration standard relevant to the endorsement.**

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- Endorsement shows on registration and national register
- Starts when the Board makes decision to endorse the practitioner's registration
- Expires when the practitioner's registration ends

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Optometrists, Podiatrists, Nurse Practitioners



- There are two prerequisites to prescribe or supply scheduled medicines: an endorsement from the Board and an authority under the State or Territory drugs and poisons legislation in which the practitioner practises.
- State differences in lists, approval mechanisms
- Access to MSB and PBS
- Not for sale in an open "shop" in Vic DPCS

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Endorsement for pharmacists



- PBA must act in the interest of public safety
- PBA should receive, consider and facilitate a submission to the Ministerial Council on proposals for endorsement
- Consultation process with stakeholders
- Needs to consider any submissions it receives

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Endorsement for pharmacists



- PBA may determine the requirements for endorsement including
 - Definition of the area of practice
 - Recognition of prior learning/ additional qualifications
 - Recency of practice
 - Maintenance of competence
 - Credentialing standards

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Non-medical prescribing



- Desire by nursing, optometry, pharmacy, osteopathy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology boards for development of national prescribing competencies
- Work being undertaken by Health Workforce Australia
- Need for harmonisation of drugs and poisons legislation nationally

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Issues



- Conflict of interest
- Need for independent review of prescriptions by dispensing pharmacist as safety step between prescriber & patient
- Lack of a real-time medication database to screen for interactions, contra-indications, misuse, abuse, multiple prescribers
- Not for all pharmacists

Issues



- Consistent cooperative approach to develop competencies for prescribing and credentialing of prescribers – supported by the National Boards

Issues



- Discard the barrier approach of why something cannot be achieved and look at the drivers for making this happen
- Leave pharmacy politics out of the consideration
- Communication

Thank you

