



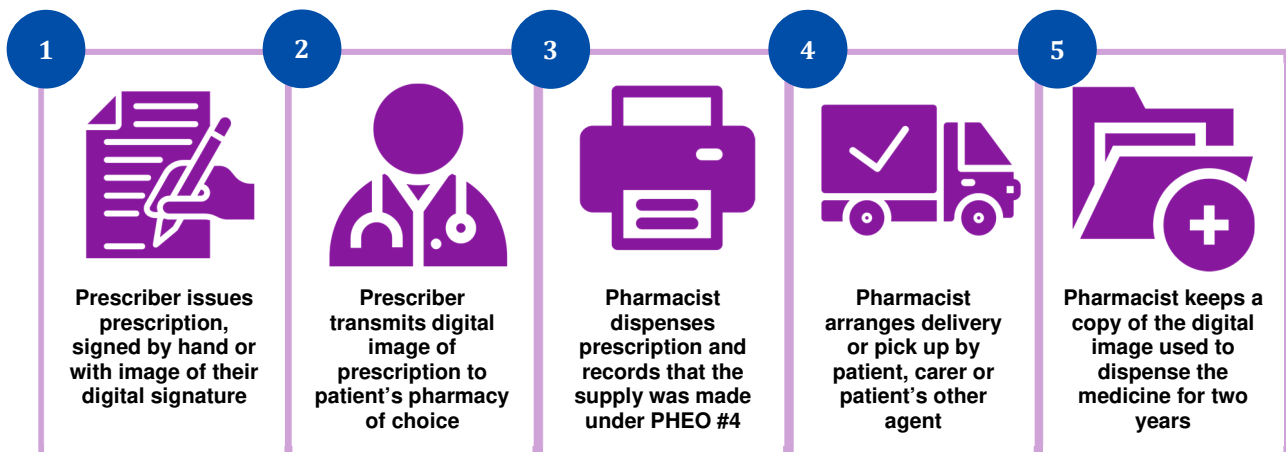
Information for Community Pharmacists

Medicines and Poisons Regulation Victoria

Digital Images of Prescriptions

From 7 April 2020, community pharmacists in Victoria can dispense a prescription for a Schedule 4 medicine (excluding drugs of dependence) using a digital image of the prescription transmitted from a prescriber by email, SMS, facsimile or other electronic method (Public health emergency order #4 (PHEO #4)).

This temporary measure has been implemented to facilitate telehealth consultations and access to medicines during the coronavirus response. This measure is in place until midnight 6 October 2020 unless earlier revoked.



What you need to know

- Digital images of prescriptions must not be used to dispense Schedule 8 medicines or Schedule 4 drugs of dependence. Drugs of dependence include all opioids, benzodiazepines and anabolic steroids.
- The digital image of the paper prescription must be an unaltered photo image or unaltered facsimile image of an original prescription.
- The prescriber must transmit the digital image of the prescription directly to the pharmacist.
- Prescriptions must not be dispensed from an email, photo or SMS presented by a patient or sent from another pharmacy.
- A digital image of a prescription must not be transmitted to another pharmacy for dispensing.
- Repeats from a digital image of a prescription may be issued. All repeat authorisations must be supplied and held in the same pharmacy that received and dispensed from the digital image of the prescription.

Need more information

Visit the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons>

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 364 545, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email dpcs@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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