



Summary of legal authority for pharmacist administration of medicines by injection

PURPOSE:

This table summarises the current legal authority for Australia's pharmacists to administer medicines by injection, which differs according to jurisdictional legislation. This summary should be read in conjunction with PSA's [*Guidelines for pharmacists administering medicines by injection*](#).

Information in this table relates to the general authority for the administration of medicines by injection and does not provide an exhaustive summary of pharmacist authority to administer specific medicines. Vaccines are excluded from this list.

This summary has been sourced from the latest available information and is current at the date of publication. At all times, pharmacists must meet the specific legislative requirements in their state or territory and are expected to exercise professional judgment in the context of adapting this guidance to their presenting circumstances.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR PHARMACIST ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES BY INJECTION

State/ Territory	Can pharmacists administer medicines other than vaccines and adrenaline by injection?	Relevant legislation	General authority relating to administration of medicines by injection by a pharmacist
ACT	YES Any unscheduled or scheduled medicine	Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 [Schedule 1, part 1.9]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need. Pharmacists can administer medicines by injection to the extent necessary to practise pharmacy and, if employed, within the scope of employment. For prescription-only medicines, pharmacists should administer medicines by injection under a collaborative arrangement with the prescriber, pharmacist and consumer as per the PSA Guidelines for administering medicines by injection. An intern pharmacist can administer medicines by injection to the extent necessary to practise pharmacy under direct supervision of a pharmacist.
NSW	YES Any unscheduled or scheduled medicine	National Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need. Pharmacists can administer a scheduled medicine by injection when dispensed on a prescription lawfully issued by a medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, midwife practitioner, endorsed nurse or midwife, optometrist or podiatrist. (Please note, an endorsed nurse or midwife, optometrist or podiatrist may only prescribe S4s, not S8s).
NT	Only unscheduled medicines, schedule 2 medicines, schedule 3 medicines (in the course of practicing their duties)	Medicines Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 [Part 2.2]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need. Pharmacists can administer schedule 2 medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need Pharmacists can administer schedule 3 medicines by injection in the course of practicing their duties if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need.
QLD	Only unscheduled medicines and long-acting injectable buprenorphine	Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 [Schedule 9]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need. Pharmacists can administer approved opioids by injection on a prescription. Currently the only approved injectable opioid is long-acting injectable buprenorphine. Intern pharmacists can administer approved opioid by injection and any medicine specified in the <i>Extended practice authority – pharmacists</i> under the supervision of a pharmacist. Trainee pharmacists (pharmacy students) must be under the direct supervision of a pharmacist.
SA	Only unscheduled medicines	Controlled substances Act (1984) [Section 18, 1d]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet professional requirements and can establish therapeutic need.

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TAS	YES Any unscheduled or scheduled medicine	<u>Poisons Regulations 2018</u> [Section 82]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet <u>professional requirements</u> and can establish therapeutic need. Pharmacists can supply schedule 4 medicines in accordance with a valid prescription; the interpretation of the term 'supply' in the <i>Poisons Act 1971</i> includes administration. There are scenarios where additional legislative requirements apply (e.g. pharmacist immunisers)
VIC	YES Any unscheduled or scheduled medicine	<u>Drugs, poisons and Controlled substances regulations 2017</u> [Regulations 99 and 100]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet <u>professional requirements</u> and can establish therapeutic need. Pharmacists can administer schedule 2 or schedule 3 medicines by injection if in accordance with a prescription or on instruction of a registered medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner or authorised midwife; pharmacists can initiate administration if they can establish a clinical need. Pharmacists can administer schedule 4 or schedule 8 medicines if in accordance with a prescription or on instruction of a registered medical practitioner, dentist, nursepractitioner or authorised midwife. A pharmacist can administer a schedule 4 medicine if in accordance with a prescription of an authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrist The <i>Drugs, poisons and controlled substances regulations 2017</i> enable the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to approve a schedule 4 medicine for administration by a pharmacist without a prescription, and to specify the conditions in which a pharmacist is authorised to administer a schedule 4 medicine without a prescription.
WA	Only unscheduled medicines	<u>Medicines and Poisons Act 2014</u> <u>Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016</u> [Section 64]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacists can administer unscheduled medicines by injection if they have the required skills, meet <u>professional requirements</u> and can establish therapeutic need. There is no authority for pharmacists to administer scheduled substances other than as identified in a <i>Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement (SASA)</i>