



Summary of legal authority for pharmacist administration of medicines

PURPOSE:

This table summarises the current legal authority for Australia's pharmacists to administer medicines, 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 and does not provide an exhaustive summary of pharmacist authority to administer specific medicines.

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.

Note: If a medicine is to be administered by injection, pharmacists should have completed an accredited course about administering medicines by injection and any other specialised training to administer a specific medicine by injection if required.

State	What medicines can pharmacists initiate and administer ?	What medicines can pharmacists administer in accordance with a lawful prescription for a person?	Can appropriately trained intern pharmacists administer the same medicines that pharmacists can?	Relevant state and territory drugs and poisons legislation
ACT	Unscheduled medicines S2 and S3 medicines Vaccines per: ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standard	Any scheduled or unscheduled medicine	Yes, under the direct supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 [Schedule 1, part 1.9]
NSW	Unscheduled medicine S2 and S3 medicines Vaccines per: NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards	Any scheduled or unscheduled medicine	Yes, under the supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 [Section 59]
NT	Unscheduled medicine S2 and S3 medicines Vaccines per: Pharmacist vaccination SSTP MPox SSTP JE SSTP	Any scheduled or unscheduled medicine	Yes, under the supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Medicines Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 [Section 63]
QLD	Unscheduled medicines S2 or S3 medicine ¹ Vaccines per: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists'	Long-acting injectable buprenorphine Any scheduled or unscheduled medicine ¹	Yes, under the supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 [Schedule 9]
SA	Unscheduled medicines S2 and S3 medicines Vaccines per: Vaccination Administration Code	Any scheduled or unscheduled medicine	Yes, under the supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Controlled substances Act (1984) [Section 18, 1d]
TAS	Unscheduled medicines S2 and S3 medicines Vaccines per: Tasmanian Pharmacist Immunisation Program Guidelines	Any scheduled or unscheduled medicines other than vaccines for yellow fever, tuberculosis, smallpox (mpox), Q fever or rotavirus. ²	Yes, vaccines only, under the supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Poisons Act 1971 [Sections 26(1A), 38(1) and 47A] Poisons Regulations 2018 [Section 54A]
VIC	Unscheduled medicines S2 and S3 medicines Vaccines per: Medicines and poisons – Secretary approval S518 3 October 2022 Medicines and poisons – Secretary approval S528 5 October 2023 Medicines and poisons – Secretary approval S530 5 October 2023	Any scheduled medicine ² in accordance with: - a lawful prescription or instruction given by a registered medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, authorised midwife; or - a lawful prescription made by an authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrist.	Yes. The intern pharmacist must be supervised by an experienced pharmacist immuniser, with the supervising pharmacist immuniser required to be physically present in the workplace.	Drugs, Poisons and Controlled substances Regulations 2017 [Regulations 99 and 100]
WA	Unscheduled medicines Vaccines per: Pharmacists – COVID-19 vaccination Pharmacists – Administration of vaccines by pharmacists	Buprenorphine depot injection when administered as opioid substitution therapy for the management of opioid dependence ³ . Any scheduled or unscheduled medicine that has been dispensed to a patient	Yes, under the supervision of a pharmacist with general registration who is eligible to administer the medicine	Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 [Sections 14 and 25] Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016 [Section 64]

1 Only applies in relation to a pharmacist who:

- a) is employed at a community pharmacy or private health facility; or
- b) is a health service employee.

2 Pharmacists must undergo approved training and be authorised by the Alcohol and Drug Service in Tasmania to administer long-acting injectable buprenorphine.

3 Conditions for the administration of long-acting injectable buprenorphine are contained in the Policy for maintenance pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence (addendum) Long-acting injectable buprenorphine

4 Conditions for the administration of long-acting injectable buprenorphine are contained in the Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement (SASA): Administration of Buprenorphine Depot injection by pharmacists