

Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996

Drug Therapy Protocol – Communicable Diseases Program



**Queensland
Government**

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Health (*Drugs and Poisons*) Regulation 1996 Drug Therapy Protocol – Communicable Diseases Program

This drug therapy protocol (DTP), made under sections 164A(c), 171(3), 174(4) and 175(6) of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* states the circumstances and conditions under which a pharmacist, Indigenous health worker¹ or registered nurse is authorised to administer or supply or a Queensland Ambulance Service Officer (ambulance officer) is authorised to administer, supply, obtain or possess a restricted drug listed in Appendix 1 to this document.

Conditions and circumstances of this drug therapy protocol

1. During a declared public health emergency in relation to an infectious medical condition:
 - a pharmacist may, as part of the person's pharmaceutical duties, administer or supply the restricted drugs (other than vaccines) listed in Appendix 1;
 - an Indigenous health worker, while practising in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community in an isolated practice area may, as part of the person's Indigenous health worker duties, administer or supply the restricted drugs (other than vaccines) listed in Appendix 1;
 - a Queensland Ambulance Service Officer who is a paramedic 1 or 2 may, as part of the person's ambulance duties, obtain, possess, administer or supply the restricted drugs (other than vaccines) listed in Appendix 1;
 - a Queensland Ambulance Service Officer who is a paramedic 3, 3 (ECP) or 4 may, as part of the person's ambulance duties, obtain, possess, administer or supply the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1;
 - a registered nurse, as part of the person's nursing duties, may administer or supply the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1;

and may do these things only for persons identified as being exposed or potentially exposed to an infectious medical condition, under the conditions contained in the Communicable Diseases Program DTP, as approved by the Chief Executive or delegate or officer appointed for such purpose under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

2. A pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse may only administer or supply those restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 for which the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol has been approved by the Chief Health Officer of Queensland Health. The minimum requirements for a Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol are contained in Appendix 2.
3. The actions of the pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse must at all times be in accordance with this Drug Therapy Protocol² and the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Program Health Management Protocol during a public health emergency.
4. The pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse must have access to current versions³ of the following literature:
 - 4.1 A copy of this Drug Therapy Protocol; and
 - 4.2 The Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol relevant to this Drug Therapy Protocol; and
 - 4.3 A current MIMS Annual and Australian Medicines Handbook; and

¹ An Indigenous health worker is defined in Appendix 9 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.

² Unless, in the opinion of the pharmacist, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse such actions would be of detriment to the client. In such instances, a medical practitioner must be consulted.

³ It is acceptable to access an electronic edition of these documents where an up to date hard copy is not readily accessible.

4.4 A copy of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.

4.5 A copy of the National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Immunisation Handbook if authorised to administer influenza vaccine.

4.6 A copy of the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5 if authorised to administer or supply influenza vaccine.

5. The pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse must be aware that practising within the Drug Therapy Protocol does not relieve that person of their legal responsibility or accountability for that person's actions and may not provide immunity in case of negligence.
6. The pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse must be familiar with the contra-indication(s) and known side effects of the restricted drug, and prior to the administration or supply of a restricted drug, advise the patient of known side effects accordingly.
7. When Consumer Medicine Information is available for a particular restricted drug, the pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse should offer this information to each person prior to administering or supplying medication.
8. Where a restricted drug is supplied by a pharmacist, Indigenous health worker, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer or registered nurse, the primary medicine container must be labelled with warnings and other information required by Section 198 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.

Certification

Certified at Brisbane on this 11th day of April 2016.

Michael Walsh
Director General
Department of Health

Appendix 1

Antivirals		
Scheduled Substances	Approved Route Of Administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Oseltamivir phosphate	Oral	<p>For use only in relation to an infectious medical condition to persons identified by the Chief Executive or delegate or officer appointed for such purpose under the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i>, as being exposed or potentially exposed to an infectious medical condition during a declared public health emergency.</p> <p>For administration or supply only to persons described by the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol.</p>
Zanamivir	Inhalation	
Vaccines		
Scheduled Substances	Approved Route Of Administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Influenza vaccine	As per the current Australian Immunisation Handbook	<p>For use only in relation to an infectious medical condition to persons identified by the Chief Executive or delegate or officer appointed for such purpose under the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i>, as being exposed or potentially exposed to an infectious medical condition during a declared public health emergency.</p> <p>For administration or supply only to persons described by the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol.</p> <p>For administration only by registered nurses and Queensland Ambulance Service Officers who are paramedic levels 3, 3(ECP) and 4.</p>

Appendix 2

Health Management Protocol – Minimum Requirements

1. The employer must have and use a current Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol that supports and details the clinical use, administration and/or supply of restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 of this Drug Therapy Protocol.
2. The Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol must be developed by the Department of Health area responsible for communicable diseases and may include the involvement of other identified professional personnel as considered appropriate by the Department.
3. Following a period of two years or sooner if considered necessary, the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol must be reviewed by the Department of Health area responsible for communicable diseases.

Content of a Health Management Protocol

The Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol clearly identifies the procedures for clinical assessment, management and follow-up of patients, including the recommended drug therapy for the relevant clinical problem and includes the following:

1. The people allowed to be treated under the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol and the indications for treatment.
2. The pre-treatment assessment process that includes the situations when medical referral/consultation must occur and documented assessment for contraindications and precautions regarding the restricted drug.
3. The requirement for documented consent of the person being administered the restricted drug.
4. The requirement that the dose, method of administration, duration of use for the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 is to be in accordance with the Australian approved product information unless instructed by a medical officer or as directed by the Department of Health for liquid paediatric dose forms¹. In the case of vaccines, the requirements of the current Australian Immunisation Handbook and National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5 are to be complied with.
5. The type of equipment and management procedures required for management of an emergency associated with the use of the restricted drug.
6. The process for monitoring and reporting adverse events.
7. The procedures in relation to storage of restricted drugs and labelling for supplied medicines.
8. The process for the provision of written information to the person (or parent of a child) being administered or supplied with the restricted drug that includes how the medicine is to be used and when and how to seek help.
9. The requirement for keeping records of restricted drugs administered under this DTP.

Endorsement of the Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol by the Chief Health Officer

1. A new or reviewed Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Health Management Protocol must be endorsed and dated by the Chief Health Officer.
2. The Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Communicable Diseases Protocol shall be effective for a maximum of two (2) years from the date of endorsement by the Chief Health Officer.

¹ Where the paediatric formulation is compounded