

**NSW HEALTH
PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES BRANCH**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR AN AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE DRUGS OF ADDICTION
UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE POISONS AND THERAPEUTIC GOODS ACT**

Note: The authority from the NSW Department of Health is distinct from and independent of the authority from 'Medicare Australia' for Pharmaceutical Benefits (PBS)

An authority is required to prescribe or supply a drug of addiction under NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods legislation, only in the circumstances described below.

A. Drug dependent persons*

A medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or midwife practitioner may only prescribe or supply a drug of addiction for a drug dependent person with the prior written authority of the NSW Department of Health (except for the treatment of that person as an in-patient in a hospital for a period not exceeding 14 consecutive days following admission).

B. Drugs of addiction for persons other than drug dependent persons

A medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or midwife practitioner may only prescribe or supply the following drugs of addiction, for more than two months, with the prior written authority of the NSW Department of Health.

- ◆ any injectable drug of addiction
- ◆ buprenorphine (except transdermal preparations)
- ◆ flunitrazepam
- ◆ hydromorphone
- ◆ methadone

C. Central Nervous System Stimulants

Dexamphetamine and methylphenidate (Attenta®, Concerta®, Ritalin®, Ritalin LA®) may be prescribed or supplied only-

- a. with the prior written authority of the NSW Department of Health, issued following receipt of a written application, or
- b. by prescribers approved by the NSW Department of Health for the management of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder where such prescribing is within departmental criteria.

See TG 181 "Criteria For The Diagnosis And Management Of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder In Children And Adolescents" and TG 190 "Criteria For The Diagnosis And Management Of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder In Adults" for details.

Please contact a pharmaceutical advisor at the Pharmaceutical Services Branch, Education and Monitoring Unit on (02) 9879 5239 for further information.

Copies of the criteria mentioned above, along with other guides and information, may be obtained from Pharmaceutical Services Branch or on the web at-

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Pharmaceutical/resources.asp>

* A drug dependent person means a person who has acquired, as a result of repeated administration of:

(a) a drug of addiction, or

(b) a prohibited drug within the meaning of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985,

an overpowering desire for the continued administration of such a drug.

Section 27 - Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966