

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AN AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE DRUGS OF ADDICTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The authority under the *NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act* for prescribers in NSW is distinct from, and independent of, any authority from Medicare Australia for Pharmaceutical Benefits (PBS) which is solely for the purpose of subsidising the cost of the medication to the patient.

This State authority (also referred to as a 'permit' in some jurisdictions) from the NSW Ministry of Health is **legally** required by a medical practitioner or nurse/midwife practitioner to prescribe or supply a drug of addiction in the circumstances described below:

1. Any drug of addiction for a drug dependent person*

(excluding the treatment of that person as an in-patient in a hospital for a period not exceeding 14 consecutive days following admission).

2. Drugs of addiction for non drug dependent persons

for continuous or ongoing treatment more than two months for any of the following:

- ♦ any **injectable** drug of addiction
- ♦ any drug of addiction for **intranasal** use, or for spray or application to mucous membranes.
- ♦ **alprazolam**
- ♦ **flunitrazepam**
- ♦ **buprenorphine** (except transdermal preparations),
- ♦ **hydromorphone**
- ♦ **methadone**

3. Psychostimulants and nabiximols

Dexamphetamine, methylphenidate, lisdexamfetamine and nabiximols may be prescribed or supplied only with the **prior written authority** of the NSW Ministry of Health.

Application forms for authorities and further information on the application process and criteria are available on the Ministry of Health website. Please note that applications may take up to **seven** business days to process.

www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/doctors/Pages/default.aspx

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* *A drug dependent person according to Section 27 of the Act means a person who has acquired, as a result of repeated administration of: a drug of addiction, or 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.*