

Dear ACT prescribers and pharmacists

Changes to faxed prescription requirements in the ACT

Changes have been made to the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 (MPTG Regulation) to support pharmacists and prescribers with record keeping for faxed prescriptions.

On 20 June, sections 31A and 120A were added to the MPTG Regulation to exempt the requirement to send or receive the original of a faxed prescription where the supply is made for a medicine in accordance with a Commonwealth special arrangement that requires prescribers to retain the original.

An example is the recent Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) interim arrangements for telehealth consultations during COVID-19.

This regulatory change aligns the ACT record keeping requirements for faxed prescriptions with the Commonwealth PBS interim arrangement for telehealth consultations.

This means that prescribers do not need to send the original of a faxed prescription to a pharmacist where it is prescribed during a telehealth consultation while the PBS special arrangements are in place. Pharmacists are also not obligated to receive the original in these circumstances.

Pharmacists are required to confirm whether the faxed prescription was written as part of a telehealth consultation in order to meet the ACT record keeping requirements and should make a record of this.

Verbal advice from the prescriber or patient is considered sufficient for this purpose. Prescribers can also confirm this in writing on the faxed prescription.

Updates were also made to sections 31 and 120 of the MPTG Regulation to change the ordinary faxed prescription record keeping requirements as follows:

- The timeframe within which a prescriber must send the original of a faxed prescription to a pharmacist was changed from **24 hours to 7 days**.
- The timeframe within which a pharmacist must receive the original of a faxed or verbal prescription before notifying the Chief Health Officer about non-receipt of

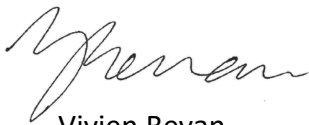
the original prescription is changed **from 7 days to 14 days of dispensing of the prescription.**

This means the ordinary record keeping requirements for faxed prescriptions have been extended for pharmacists and prescribers. These changes were made to allow greater flexibility for pharmacists and prescribers for faxed prescriptions during and after COVID- 19.

The updated MPTG Regulation can be accessed on the [ACT Legislation Register](#).

For further information about Telehealth Prescribing in the ACT, please visit the health professionals '[Medicines Matters](#)' page on the ACT Health COVID-19 website <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/> or contact the Pharmaceutical Services section of Health Protection Service 02 5124 9208 hps@act.gov.au.

We acknowledge the efforts of all ACT health practitioners in supporting the care of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency.



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22 June 2020