



## Voluntary Assisted Dying Substance Disposal Guidance for Pharmacists

In Western Australia, Authorised Disposers are registered pharmacists who hold specifically identified roles, see attached Department of Health [Published list of Authorised Disposers](#).

This disposal guidance document is for a pharmacist who, in accordance with the WA *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* (VAD Act), is deemed to be an **Authorised Disposer** of the voluntary assisted dying (VAD) substance.

Pharmacists are not obliged to accept the VAD substance for disposal. If necessary, direct the person to contact the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service.

An eligible pharmacist who accepts the VAD substance for disposal agrees to act as an **Authorised Disposer** and is required to meet the legislative requirements of the VAD Act.

***This document outlines the minimum legislative requirements for disposal of the voluntary assisted dying substance, as outlined in the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019](#), [Medicines and Poisons Act 2014](#), and [Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016](#) and does not take into account local policy or procedures.***

The VAD substance is a Schedule 8 medication. Ensure local policies regarding disposal are followed.

If further assistance is required, please contact:

### WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service

**Phone:** (08) 6383 3088

**Email:** [statewidepharmacy@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:statewidepharmacy@health.wa.gov.au)

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm (excluding Public Holidays)

### Step 1: Acceptance of VAD Substance for Disposal

The VAD substance should be handed over to the Authorised Disposer in a metal box containing:

- VAD substance requiring disposal
- A denaturing drug waste container (to assist with disposal)
- Supportive medications (if prescribed)
- Contact Person and Pharmacy Disposal Information Sharing form (to assist with reporting requirements)

If possible, obtain the following:

- Patient details: name, date of birth, address and telephone number.
- Details of person handing over the VAD substance: name, address, telephone number and email address.



## Step 2: Disposal of VAD Substance

The **Authorised Disposer** must dispose of the VAD substance as soon as practicable after receiving it.

### **Process required for disposal of the VAD substance:**

1. **De-identification:** remove all labelling and packaging.
2. **Destruction:** Follow the denaturing drug waste container directions to render the substance inactive.
  - If the VAD substance is a liquid then it can be placed in the prepared drug waste container
  - If the VAD substance is in powder form then add 30-50mL of water to the powder and shake. Then add to the prepared drug waste container.
  - Destroy all documentation contained within the metal box.
3. **Disposal:** Place sealed drug waste container and the empty bottle in the RUM bin or clinical waste.

The metal box does not need to be returned to the WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service.

## Step 3: Documentation and Notification Requirements of Disposal

An **Authorised Disposal Form** is available on the [Voluntary Assisted Dying – Information Management System](#). No log in is required. The form can be submitted either electronically or by fax.

The **Authorised Disposer** must complete the **Authorised Disposal Form** and submit this to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Board within 2 business days of disposal of the VAD substance.

A VAD-IMS quick reference guide is available: [Submit an Authorised Disposal Form](#)

I need to complete a form

You do not need access to VAD-IMS to submit the following forms. However, if you do have access to VAD-IMS, please [log in](#) first.

<input type="radio"/> A patient has made a <a href="#">First Request</a> for voluntary assisted dying	<a href="#">First Request Form</a>
<input type="radio"/> I have received a referral for a Consulting Assessment	<a href="#">Consultation Referral Form</a>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> I have received and disposed of a voluntary assisted dying substance	<a href="#">Authorised Disposal Form</a>

More information is available on the Department of Health Voluntary Assisted Dying website: [www.health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying).