

Working with medicines

# Podiatrists

## Regulations

Podiatrists registered with the national board, have various authorities under the Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016 to purchase, hold and use prescription medicines.

## Authority

The following table outlines the authority of podiatrists to use medicines under the Regulations:

| **Practitioner** | **Type of Authority** |
| --- | --- |
| **Obtain (purchase)** | **Possess** | **Administer** | **Supply** | **Prescribe** |
| Endorsed Podiatrist  | 🗸 | 🗸 | 🗸 1 | 🗸 1 | 🗸 1 |
| Podiatrist | 🗸 | 🗸 | 🗸 2  | 🗸 2 |  |

Notes:

1. in accordance with the [Medicines List published by the Podiatry Board of Australia](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Endorsement/Endorsement-Scheduled-Medicines.aspx).
2. in accordance with a Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement.

Any authority is limited to the lawful practice of the professional and includes:

* podiatry practice only;
* scope of practice / general professional limitations;
* for patients under the care of the health practitioner;
* usual place of business;
* course of operating the practitioners business / as part of employment; and
* any relevant restrictions or conditions imposed on the individual practitioner.

Scope of practice for podiatrists is defined by the Podiatry Board of Australia.

## Purchasing medicines

Podiatrists may purchase medicines in their own name, to treat patients under their care.

A Permit is required to purchase medicines in name of a business or where inventory will be shared between multiple practitioners, for use at the one practice.

## Supply and prescription

Endorsed podiatrists, including podiatric surgeons, may personally administer, prescribe or supply a Schedule 4 (S4) medicine, or administer or prescribe a Schedule 8 (S8) medicine in accordance with their authority and in accordance with the [Medicines List](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Registration-Endorsement/Endorsement-Scheduled-Medicines.aspx) published by the Podiatry Board of Australia.

Prescribing of S8 medicines is restricted to endorsed podiatric surgeons and acute treatment of not more than 10 doses of immediate release oxycodone.

A podiatrist may administer local anaesthetics for podiatric procedures, in accordance a Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement. Approved podiatrists may administer and supply a limited range of S4 medicines for podiatric use, in accordance with a Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement.

Any medicine supplied must be appropriately packaged and fully labelled according to regulation.

## Storage

S4 medicines must be stored in a locked storage facility to prevent unauthorised access. For example: a lockable room, cupboard, cabinet or refrigerator. Precautions must be taken to ensure keys are not accessible to unauthorised staff.

S8 medicines must be stored in a locked purpose-built drug safe. Storage of a total of S8 medicines less than of 250 doses requires a small safe and greater than 500 doses requires a large safe. Motion detectors covering the safe are required when more than 250 doses are stored.

## Recording

Podiatrists must make accurate clinical records of all medicines administered, or supplied (where permitted), and retain these for at least 2 years for S4 medicines, or 5 years for S8 medicines. All records must be available to be produced on demand of an authorised officer of the Department of Health.

## Compliance assessment

Podiatrists possessing or using medicines may be required to participate in routine audit assessments to monitor compliance with these requirements.

Non-compliance with the regulations may result restrictions or loss of medicines authorities, notification to the Podiatrist Board, and/or prosecution under the legislation.

## More information

For more information contact the Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch on:

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