

Guidelines for Medicines Wholesalers and Pharmacy Medicines Rural Communities Licences

This summary has been prepared by the Health Protection Service to assist in understanding key storage and related requirements for medicines wholesalers and pharmacy medicines rural communities licence holders. Refer to the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008 and Regulation 2008* (at www.legislation.act.gov.au) for full details.

Licensees must ensure that they are authorised to be in possession of medicines they deal with. If you are unsure whether or not you can legally obtain, possess or sell a particular product or need advice about any conditions applying to its storage or sale, ask your supplier or contact the Health Protection Service at the address below.

Storage Requirements

Medicines must be stored within the manufacturer's recommended storage temperature range and in any other environmental condition that is necessary to preserve the medicine's stability and therapeutic quality.

Controlled (S8) medicines:

- Controlled medicines must be stored in a locked safe, strong room or vault. Keys and lock combinations to the storage receptacle must not be accessible to or known by unauthorised persons.

Prescription only (S4), pharmacist only (S3) and pharmacy (S2) medicines:

- Prescription only, pharmacist only and pharmacy medicines must be stored in a part of the premises where only a licensee, or a person under the direct supervision of a licensee, has access to the medicine and to which the public does not have access.

Procurement, Destruction and Recording Requirements

- If a licensee wishes to destroy expired or unwanted controlled medicines, the destruction must be witnessed by a prescribed person under Regulation 545. Both participants in the destruction must sign the controlled medicines register.

- Expired or unwanted prescription only, pharmacist only and pharmacy medicines should be returned to the wholesaler for disposal or disposed of responsibly. It is an offence under the Act to discard a medicine in a way that puts the health or safety of people at risk or is likely to cause damage to property or the environment.
- Controlled medicines registers, other recording and medicines storage arrangements may be the subject of inspections under the Act.

Matters to be reported

ACT Health must be notified when:

- Controlled medicines are lost
- Controlled medicines are stolen. The theft must also be reported to a police officer.

It is recommended that the loss or theft of controlled medicines records be reported.

Related Documents

Medicines Wholesalers, Opioid Dependency Treatment, and Pharmacy Medicines Rural Communities Licence Applications

HPS-00-0339

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

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