

Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Queensland Health
Name of the proposal	<i>Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025</i>
Submission type	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021</i>
Date of issue	July 2025

Proposal type	Details
Regulatory proposals where no RIA is required	<p><i>The Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025 amends the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorise medical practitioners and nurse practitioners to deal with an approved opioid for the continuing institutional treatment of a patient under the Queensland opioid treatment program (QOTP) when the patient is admitted to a hospital or taken into custody at a custodial facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The amendments will ensure that medical practitioners and nurse practitioners can continue to deal with approved opioids for continuing institutional treatment. – It is essential that dealings with approved opioids for continuing institutional treatment can continue to ensure safe, timely and clinically appropriate medical care for patients on the QOTP when they are admitted to hospitals and custodial facilities. Discontinuation of approved opioids can result in significant opioid withdrawal, complicate analgesia and treatment of other disorders and contribute to non-prescribed drug use or behavioural disturbances. – Currently, a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner intending to continue treatment with an approved opioid for administration to a patient under the QOTP for continuing institutional treatment must apply for a prescribing approval. If a large cohort of prescribers in hospitals and custodial facilities were to apply for prescribing approvals to enable continuity of care, this would carry a significant administrative burden for Queensland Health in reviewing and deciding applications. This amendment will enable medical practitioners and nurse practitioners to continue to deal with approved opioids under the continuing institutional treatment provisions and remove a potential administrative barrier to providing uninterrupted care for persons on the QOTP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend the dealings authorised for nuclear medicine technologists to allow them to administer schedule 4 and schedule 8 medicines to the extent necessary to conduct diagnostic nuclear medicines investigations, where the medicine is administered either on a prescription or in accordance with a clinical protocol. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This amendment will support nuclear medicine technologists to utilise their clinical training and skills to administer essential medicines for nuclear medicine investigations. This will reduce procedural delays, increase accessibility of nuclear medicine procedures, and enhance healthcare delivery across Queensland. • make minor administrative amendments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These amendments are minor and administrative in nature. The amendment will correct typographical errors and ensure drafting consistency throughout the <i>Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021</i>. <p>The proposals are designed to facilitate equitable access to medicines and health services for Queenslanders. The <i>Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025</i> is deregulatory and does not increase costs or regulatory burden on business or the community. Queensland Health has identified that no regulatory impact analysis is required under the <i>Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy</i>.</p>
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Signed



Adjunct Professor Frank Tracey
Acting Director-General, Queensland Health
Date: 16 July 2025



Timothy Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Date: 23/7/25