

Drugs of Dependence Unit

The law is changing – what you need to know!

On 1 November 2020, the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011 will change to allow ScriptCheckSA to be implemented in early 2021.

Prescribers and Pharmacists are expected to be familiar, and comply with, their obligations under the Controlled Substances legislation

Record Keeping | Regulations 33(6), 34(1)(d) and 35A(1)(a)

Prescribers and Pharmacists must make a record of specific information each time a Schedule 8 (S8) prescription is written or dispensed. After 1 November 2020, the same record keeping requirements will apply for Monitored Drugs.

In practice, the **patient's date of birth** is the only extra information that will need to be recorded for Monitored Drugs.

Monitored Drugs | Regulation 3(1)

Electronic record keeping and reporting requirements apply to the following Monitored Drugs:

- any S8 poison;
- any S4 poison that is a Benzodiazepine;
- any S4 poison that contains Codeine; and
- the following S4 poisons:
 - Gabapentin;
 - Pregabalin;
 - Quetiapine;
 - Tramadol;
 - Zolpidem;
 - Zopiclone.

Reporting to the Chief Executive – Drugs of Dependence Unit (DDU) | Regulations 33(5), 34(1) and 35A(1)(b)

After 1 November 2020, where an electronic record is made for Monitored Drugs it must be reported to the DDU each month.

Prescribing and dispensing software that is integrated with the National Data Exchange (NDE) will automatically send prescription and dispensing records for Monitored Drugs in real-time via a prescription exchange service (PES) (MediSecure or eRx). If the PES is active, you will not need to send monthly returns to DDU each month.

Contact your software vendor to confirm if your clinical software is integrated with a PES and how to activate it.

Practices and pharmacies using software that is *not connected* to a PES must manually submit monthly returns of prescribing records to DDU (Health.DDReturn@sa.gov.au) by the 7th day of the month.

The monthly return must include electronic records made for all Monitored Drugs. Instructions can be found at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/drugsofdependence.