

## Drugs of Dependence Unit

# *The Controlled Substances Act 1984*

## Veterinary Surgeons' Obligations

*The Controlled Substances Act 1984* and the *Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011* regulate the supply and prescribing of drugs and poisons in South Australia. The following is a guide to the major legal obligations and is not complete. Reference should be made to the legislation (available via [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au)), and where necessary advice sought from Drugs of Dependence Unit staff and or the veterinary surgeon's legal representative.

References to:

„SECTIONS“ refer to those parts of the Controlled Substances Act 1984 and

„REGULATIONS“ refers to those parts of the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011.

“Veterinary Surgeon” refers to a person registered as a Veterinary Surgeon by the Veterinary Surgeon Board under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003. <sup>[SECTION 4]</sup>

Substances used for therapeutic purposes are divided into four schedules with increasing controls:

- > Schedule 2 / Pharmacy Medicine – Pharmacy and Medicine Sellers – Pharmacist advice should be available
- > Schedule 3 / Pharmacist Only Medicine – Pharmacy only – Expert advice is required on use of the drug - Pharmacist advice is required and a Pharmacist must take part in the sale
- > Schedule 4 / Prescription Only Medicine – Professional diagnosis and monitoring is required – prescribed or supplied by a Medical Practitioner, Dentist or Veterinary Surgeon
- > Schedule 8 / Controlled Drug or Drug of Dependence – As for S4 but because of their high abuse potential, additional security and accountability is required.

Prescription Drugs are S4 & S8 drugs.

### Prescription Drug Controls

- > Possession, prescribing, supply & administration of S4 & S8 drugs are prohibited.
- > Veterinary Surgeons and other health workers are exempted only while acting in the ordinary course of their profession.
- > Owners of animals are exempted where the drug has been lawfully prescribed and supplied. <sup>[SECTIONS 18 & 31]</sup>

### **Purchase** <sup>[REGULATION 40]</sup>

- > A Veterinary Surgeon may purchase S4 & S8 drugs by written and signed order from a licensed wholesaler or pharmacy.
- > Drugs must be purchased in the name of the Veterinary Surgeon and he or she takes responsibility for them.
- > If drugs are to be purchased in the name of the veterinary practice, the practice must obtain a license to possess such drugs.

# Drugs of Dependence Unit

## Storage <sup>[REGULATION 27]</sup>, Code of Practice for the Storage & Transport of Drugs of Dependence]

- > S4 drugs must be stored to prevent public access.
- > S8 drugs must be stored to prevent unauthorised access.
  - Must be in a locked cabinet.
  - If more than 15 doses, must be in a metal safe (unless supervised at all times)

### Record keeping

- > S4 & S8 drugs - must record in the treatment record for the animal
- > S8 drugs - must maintain a drug of dependence register and record all transactions. <sup>[REGULATION 41]</sup>
- > All records must be kept a minimum of two years from date of last entry on the record. <sup>[REGULATION 49]</sup>

### Prescribing <sup>[REGULATIONS 33 & 34]</sup>

- > Prescriptions for S4 & S8 drugs must include:
  - The name, address and telephone number of the prescriber,
  - The date,
  - Insert the words "For animal treatment only"
  - The species of animal, name (if any) of the animal and the name and address of the owner,
  - The name of the drug and if necessary, the strength and form of the drug,
  - The dosage instructions for the safe use of the drug,
  - The quantity to be dispensed and
  - The prescriber's signature.
- > Prescriptions are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of prescribing and 6 months in the case of S8 drugs.

### Sale or Supply of S3 Medicine

A Veterinary Surgeon must personally give oral directions, supplemented where practicable with written directions, for the safe and proper use of a schedule 3 medicine to the owner of the animal that is being supplied the medicine. <sup>[REGULATION 13]</sup>

### Supply of a Prescription Drug

Drugs must be labelled. The label must be the original manufacturers' label or the label to include the drug name, strength and form, dosing instructions for safe use, the species of the animal, name (if any) of the animal, name of the owner, the date supplied and the (business) name and address of the supplier. <sup>[REGULATION 26]</sup>

### Prohibition on use of certain Poisons

- > A Veterinary Surgeon may not:
  - a) In the case of a drug produced for animal use, administer to him or herself, or prescribe, purchase or supply the drug, if he or she knows, or has reasonable grounds for suspecting, the drug is intended for human use. <sup>[REGULATION 31]</sup>
  - b) Use chloramphenicol for the treatment of any animal, bird or bee (of the genus *Apis* or *Megachile*) raised or used for the purpose of providing a product for human consumption. <sup>[REGULATION 31]</sup>

# Drugs of Dependence Unit

## Restriction on Advertising of a Drug

A Veterinary Surgeon may not advertise a schedule 3, 4 or 8 medicine except where the advertisement appears in a journal circulated predominantly among health professionals.  
[REGULATION 32]

## Destruction of Drugs of Dependence

Destruction must not occur unless witnessed by another Veterinary Surgeon, a Pharmacist etc.  
[REGULATION 45]

## Vicarious Liability <sup>[REGULATION 50]</sup>

An employer may be held responsible for the actions of an employee.

## Administrative Powers

Convictions against the Act or where the Minister forms an opinion a prescription drug (S4 or S8) has been prescribed, supplied or administered in an irresponsible manner, may result in a Prohibition Order that effectively removes the ability to handle these drugs. <sup>[SECTION 57]</sup>

Prescribers are encouraged to telephone the Drugs of Dependence Unit (Phone 1300 652 584) to discuss cases where guidance or advice is required.

For the above references, <sup>SECTIONS</sup> refer to those parts of the Controlled Substances Act 1984 and <sup>REGULATIONS</sup> refers to those parts of the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011.

## Some examples of Schedule 4 Prescription Drugs

<i>(Trade or Proprietary Names)</i>			
<i>Anabolic steroids</i>		<i>Laurabolin</i>	<i>Nandoral</i>
<i>Anaesthetic agents</i>	<i>Nitrous oxide, Pentobarbitone Alphaxalone Flunixin</i>	<i>Nembutal Alfaxan Finadyne Rimadyl</i>	<i>Saffan</i>
<i>Analgesics</i>	<i>Carprofen Cartrophen</i>		
<i>Antibiotics</i>	<i>Atropine</i>		
<i>Anticholinergics</i>	<i>Lignocaine &gt;10% Mepivacaine</i>		
<i>Local anaesthetics</i>	<i>Benzodiazepines, Acepromazine Xylazine</i>	<i>Pamlin Promex Romazine</i>	<i>(diazepam)</i>
<i>Sedatives</i>			

# Drugs of Dependence Unit

## Some examples of Drugs of Dependence (Schedule 8 drugs)

	Generic Name	Trade or Proprietary Names
<b>1. OPIOIDS</b>	<i>buprenorphine</i>  <i>codeine (with no other active drug)*</i> <i>fentanyl</i> <i>hydromorphone</i> <i>methadone</i>  <i>morphine</i>   <i>oxycodone</i>  <i>pethidine</i> <i>remifentanyl</i>	<i>Norspan, Subutex,</i> <i>Suboxone, Temgesic,</i> <i>Linctus Codeine</i> <i>Durogesic, Actiq</i> <i>Dilaudid, Dilaudid HP</i> <i>Biodone Forte, Physeptone,</i> <i>Methadone Syrup</i> <i>Anamorph, DepoDur, Kapanol,</i> <i>MS Contin, MS Mono</i> <i>Ordine, Sevredol</i> <i>Endone, OxyContin</i> <i>Oxynorm, Proladone</i>  <i>Ultival</i>
<b>2. STIMULANTS</b>	<i>cocaine</i> <i>dexamphetamine</i> <i>methylphenidate</i>	<i>Attenta, Concerta, Ritalin</i>
<b>3. SEDATIVES</b>	<i>Alprazolam (from 1 February 2014)</i> <i>flunitrazepam</i> <i>pentobarbitone (except for injection)</i>	<i>Xanax, Kalma</i> <i>Hypnodorm,</i> <i>Pentone</i>
<b>4. OTHER</b>	<i>ketamine</i>	<i>Ketalar</i>

## For more information

Drugs of Dependence Unit

PO Box 6

Rundle Mall ADELAIDE SA 5000

Telephone: 1300 652 584 (Office hours)

Fax: 1300 658 447

Email: [HealthDrugsofDependenceUnit@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthDrugsofDependenceUnit@sa.gov.au)

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/drugsofdependence](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/drugsofdependence)

© SA Health, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.



Government  
of South Australia

SA Health