



Health Ministers' Meeting

ATTN: National Health Secretariat
c/- NSW Ministry of Health
Level 7, 1 Reserve Road
St Leonards NSW 2065
(02) 9461 7900
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Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3000
Via email: Ahpra.Secretariat@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Adjunct Professor Casey

Approval of scheduled medicines endorsement for registered nurses and the registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2024 on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) recommending approval of the proposed scheduled medicines endorsement for designated RN prescribers.

I am pleased to advise that the Ministerial Council at our 6 December 2024 Health Ministers Meeting, has approved the NMBA's proposal for an endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines for registered nurses and in accordance with section 14 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The approval is for:

- Class of practitioner: any person registered as a registered nurse under the National Law whose registration has been endorsed by the NMBA in accordance with section 94 of the National Law
- Type of use: endorsed as qualified to prescribe a class of scheduled medicines (per below)
- Class of scheduled medicines: Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for the purposes of prescribing as a designated registered nurse prescriber with an authorised health practitioner within the scope of registered nurse practice.

Further, in accordance with section 12 of the National Law, the Ministerial Council has decided to approve the *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber* under section 12 of the National Law.

In making this approval, we noted the extensive consultation undertaken by the NMBA including undertaking a regulatory impact assessment process with a Consultation RIS and Decision RIS assessed as compliant by the Office of Impact Analysis. We trust that the introduction of designated RN prescribers who are suitably educated and trained to prescribe will enable the provision of timely, safe and affordable access to a high-quality and reliable supply of medicines and medicines-related services for all Australians.



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Ministers also agree with your proposal that the endorsement, registration standard and guidelines take effect approximately six months after receipt of our approval; with advance publication to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the endorsement and what RNs need to do to apply. We advise the NMBA that additional time may be required to implement the endorsement in Victoria to ensure the necessary legislative and regulatory frameworks are in place prior to implementation.

Thank you for bringing the Board's proposal to Health Ministers.

Yours sincerely

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Chair
Health Ministers' Meeting

11 / 12 / 2024