



Department of Health

Enquiries to: Sue Turner
Snr Pharmacist
Medicines Regulation and
Quality
Telephone: 3328 9736
File Ref: QCOS17536/3

Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to advise you of a change in the process for obtaining a drugs administration authority for Anaesthetic Technicians (ATs).

The current AT drug administration authority ceases on 30 June 2015. In previous years, a blanket 'class of person' authority granted under Section 18(1) of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (the Regulation) automatically applied to all people working within the AT discipline and was issued to enable ATs to administer medicines on behalf of the doctor administering anaesthesia. However, legal advice received in 2014 necessitated a change to the procedure.

The new procedure requires persons currently employed within disciplines which administer drugs and poisons by right of a S18(1) authority to apply for an individual drug administration authority. To this end, prior to 30 June 2015, individual ATs are required to apply directly to the Department of Health for an authority under S18(1) of the Regulation to continue the current AT drug administration practices, which namely cover:

restricted and controlled drugs (S4 and S8) and S3 adrenaline in specific circumstances under the direction and direct supervision of an anaesthetist in the anaesthetic procedural environment.

Each applicant will be required to identify themselves, provide details of their educational qualifications, and the facility/ies in which they are employed.

This procedure will also apply to any persons that commence in Queensland Health in an AT position on or after the date of this notification, where that position may require them to administer drugs and poisons on behalf of the doctor administering anaesthesia.

It is important to note that from 1 July 2015, ATs working within public and private facilities who do not hold an individual authority to administer drugs and poisons under S18(1) of the Regulation will be able to continue employment as an AT. **However, they will be unable to administer drugs and poisons until such time as they apply for and are granted the S18(1) authority.**

ATs can access application forms and advice on the new application procedure from the website www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/s18-hdpr96.pdf

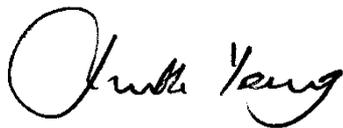
No fee or other cost is applied to individuals for this application.

The new S18(1) authorities will be approved for a period of time that ceases on **30 June 2018**, unless sooner suspended, cancelled, replaced, or surrendered.

I request that you bring this advice to the appropriate persons within your organisation and/ or membership.

Should you have any queries concerning the temporary authority, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Turner, Senior Pharmacist, Medicines Regulation and Quality, on 3328 9808 or sue.turner@health.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeannette Young'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Dr Jeannette Young
Chief Health Officer
16 June 2015