



Department of Health

Dear Stakeholder

**Notification: Anaesthetic Technicians Drug Administration Authority – Extension to Temporary Authority**

I am writing to advise you of a further drugs administration authority for Anaesthetic Technicians (ATs) via an approval granted under section 18 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* (the Regulation).

The drugs administration authority follows on from the current drugs administration authority which ceases on 30 June 2014, and will commence on 1 July 2014, and expire on 30 June 2015, unless sooner suspended, cancelled, replaced or surrendered, whichever occurs first.

Prior temporary authorisations have been in place since 2008 to enable ATs to administer restricted and controlled drugs (S4 and S8) in specific circumstances under the direction and direct supervision of an anaesthetist in the anaesthetic procedural environment.

This drugs administration authority has been updated to provide ATs with the ability to administer Adrenaline (S3) (such as adrenaline in pre-filled syringes and epi-pens) in emergency situations under the directions and direct supervision of an anaesthetist in the anaesthetic procedural environment.

A comprehensive review and consultation process was undertaken during 2012 to identify a long term alternative and sustainable solution to the temporary authority. Consideration of the outcomes of the research and consultation has not yet been finalised. As part of the development of the new Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods legislation, Clinician Planning and Leadership will seek approval for a permanent AT drug administration authority. On this basis, I have approved an extension to the authority to enable this process to be finalised.

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3646 9788

A copy of the temporary authority is attached for your information. I request that you bring this advice and a copy of the temporary authority to the attention of the appropriate persons within your organisation.

Should you have any queries concerning the temporary approval, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Hammer, Director, Clinician Workforce Futures on 3646 9766 or Joanne Hall, Senior Workforce Planning Officer, Clinician Workforce Redesign, on 3646 9788.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeannette Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jeannette Young  
**Chief Health Officer**  
17 April 2014

Attachment – Temporary Authority under Anaesthetic Technician Drug Administration Authority –  
Section 18 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*

**Health Protection Unit  
Medicines Regulation and Quality**

Enquiries to: Medicines Regulation & Quality  
Telephone: (07) 3328 9812  
Facsimile: (07) 3328 9821  
File No: QCOS/2191  
Our ref: MRQ-ATH-0003

**HEALTH (DRUGS AND POISONS) REGULATION 1996**

**APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 18(1)**

I, Jeannette Young, delegate of the Chief Executive, Queensland Health, approve the following persons:-

*Anaesthetic assistants holding a qualification acceptable to the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists*

to perform the function/s listed in the table below for the scheduled drugs listed in the corresponding column:

Function	Class of Drug
Administer	Controlled drugs (S8) and restricted drugs (S4)
Administer	S3 Adrenaline

subject to the following conditions:

1. the function must only be performed on the written instruction and direct supervision of an anaesthetist and only:
  - in the anaesthetic procedural environment; and
  - when exceptional circumstances exist which mean that this function is necessary to ensure the patient's safety.
2. The approval is effective from 1 July 2014 and remains in force until 30 June 2015, unless sooner suspended, cancelled, replaced or surrendered, whichever occurs first.

Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL 2014.



Dr Jeannette Young  
Delegate of the Chief Executive  
Queensland Health  
Approval No. MRQ-ATH-0003

Office

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## General Information relating to this approval

### As-of-right authority under the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*

Pursuant to sections 52 and 155 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*, an anaesthetic assistant who holds a qualification acceptable to the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, is authorised to possess, under the written instruction of a doctor administering anaesthesia, a controlled drug a restricted drug, and a pharmacist only drug respectively, at a hospital when preparing for and during anaesthetic procedures.

For clarity, in combination with the above as-of-right authority this approval enables the approval holder to do the following things:

- Stock and manage drugs on the drug trolley;
- Hold keys for and get drugs from the drug cupboard (in the presence of another approved person);
- Prepare and mix drugs on the verbal order and under the direct supervision of the anaesthetist;
- Draw up drugs into a syringe under the direct supervision of the anaesthetist;
- Handle drugs and assist the anaesthetist by changing the bottle from which drugs are drawn; and
- Administer drugs under the direction and direct supervision of the anaesthetist, only in the procedural environment and only when exceptional circumstances exist which mean that this is necessary to ensure the patient's safety.

The approval holder should be aware that this approval makes the person an endorsed person under the provisions of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*. As such, endorsed persons may have other legal obligations under that legislation that need to be complied with. The approval holder should therefore familiarise themselves with their relevant obligations under the HDPR. If they require any clarification of these obligations they can contact the Medicines Regulation and Quality Program.

Phone: 3328 8912

Fax: 3328 9821

Email: [ddu@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ddu@health.qld.gov.au)



## NOTICE

### *HEALTH (DRUGS AND POISONS) REGULATION 1996*

#### Section 18(3)

Notice is given to the approval holder that the conditions included on approval No. **MRQ-ATH-0003** have been imposed for the reasons stated below.

#### **REASONS:**

- Condition 1:* Ensures the anaesthetist maintains control over the administering the controlled and restricted drugs administered.
- Condition 2:* Limits the life of the approval.

You have the right to have the decision to impose conditions on your endorsement reviewed by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT). Such review must be made within 28 days from this notice.

Form 23 – Application to review a decision is available from the QCAT website at <http://www.qcat.qld.gov.au>

If you wish to seek a stay of a decision, you must complete form 44 – Application to stay a decision, also available from the QCAT website.