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| Information for Community Pharmacists  |
| Medicines and Poisons Regulation Victoria |

## Digital Images of Prescriptions

## From 7 April 2020, community pharmacists in Victoria can dispense a prescription for a Schedule 4 medicine (excluding drugs of dependence) using a digital image of the prescription transmitted from a prescriber by email, SMS, facsimile or other electronic method (Public health emergency order #4 (PHEO #4)).

## This temporary measure has been implemented to facilitate telehealth consultations and access to medicines during the coronavirus response. This measure is in place until midnight 6 October 2020 unless earlier revoked.

**Prescriber issues prescription, signed by hand or with image of their digital signature**

**Prescriber transmits digital image of prescription to patient’s pharmacy of choice**

**Pharmacist dispenses prescription and records that the supply was made under PHEO #4**

**Pharmacist arranges delivery or pick up by patient, carer or patient’s other agent**

**Pharmacist keeps a copy of the digital image used to dispense the medicine for two years**


## What you need to know

### Digital images of prescriptions must not be used to dispense Schedule 8 medicines or Schedule 4 drugs of dependence. Drugs of dependence include all opioids, benzodiazepines and anabolic steroids.

### The digital image of the paper prescription must be an unaltered photo image or unaltered facsimile image of an original prescription.

### The prescriber must transmit the digital image of the prescription directly to the pharmacist.

### Prescriptions must not be dispensed from an email, photo or SMS presented by a patient or sent from another pharmacy.

### A digital image of a prescription must not be transmitted to another pharmacy for dispensing.

### Repeats from a digital image of a prescription may be issued. All repeat authorisations must be supplied and held in the same pharmacy that received and dispensed from the digital image of the prescription.

## Need more information

Visit the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons>

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