

Changes to Schedule 8 permit requirements for ADHD treatment in Victoria

Schedule 8 permit exceptions for medical and nurse practitioners prescribing psychostimulant medicines for treatment of ADHD have now been expanded to include ADHD practitioners in specified circumstances, and medical practitioners and nurse practitioners prescribing in accordance with a valid 'ADHD treatment instruction'.

If a paediatrician, psychiatrist or ADHD practitioner decides that it is appropriate for a general practitioner or nurse practitioner to prescribe dexamphetamine, lisdexamfetamine or methylphenidate for the treatment of ADHD for a non-drug-dependent patient, they must issue an 'ADHD treatment instruction' that complies with the requirements under the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017.

This regulatory change has been introduced to improve patient access to ADHD treatment and reduce regulatory burden on prescribers of psychostimulant medicines for ADHD, while maintaining appropriate safeguards through SafeScript.

All prescribers must continue to check SafeScript before prescribing any psychostimulants. A permit continues to be required before prescribing a Schedule 8 medicine for a [drug-dependent](#) patient.

What is an 'ADHD treatment instruction'?

An ADHD treatment instruction is a document that may be provided by a paediatrician, psychiatrist or ADHD practitioner (a GP who has completed [additional training](#) recognised by the Victorian Department of Health) to support ongoing prescribing of psychostimulants for the treatment of ADHD to an individual patient. Existing supporting letters that contain the required information do not need to be replaced.

Further information about ADHD treatment instruction requirements, including required particulars, transitional arrangements and additional requirements commencing on 1 December 2026, is available on the Department of Health [website](#)

More information

For detailed guidance and FAQs on the updated requirements, please visit:

[Psychostimulants for ADHD - updated permit requirements.](#)

For more information about ADHD practitioners, please visit: [ADHD care in general practice | health.vic.gov.au](#)