Queensland Health

Extended practice authority

Physiotherapists – version 3

This extended practice authority (**EPA**) has been made under section 232 of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* (Qld) by the Deputy Director-General, Health Workforce Division, Queensland Health, as a delegate of the chief executive, Queensland Health. It states the scope of the regulated activities with the regulated substances which a physiotherapist is authorised to carry out for the purposes described in the table in Schedule 12, Part 4 of the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021.

A term used in this EPA that is defined in the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* or the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, has the meaning stated in the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* or Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021.

Circumstances and conditions

1. A physiotherapist working in a public sector urgent care setting[1] who has completed training in accordance with Appendix 1 and who has been credentialed[2] to prescribe and administer medicines by the Hospital and Health Service in which they are working, may prescribe and administer:
   a. an *approved medicine* listed in Appendix 2, column 1 only:
      i. by a route for the medicine stated in Appendix 2, column 2; and
      ii. subject to the conditions for the medicine stated in Appendix 2, column 3 (if any).
   b. an *immunisation medicine* listed in Appendix 3, subject to the conditions and circumstances for immunisation medicines detailed in sections 4 through to 7 in this EPA.
2. A prescription written by a physiotherapist that authorises the supply of a medicine listed in this EPA, must only be dispensed by a pharmacist working in the public sector hospital or urgent care setting where the physiotherapist is practising and must be annotated with the wording: **'Must only be dispensed at [the name of public hospital pharmacy OR public sector urgent care setting pharmacy]'**.

[1] This means emergency service settings (that meet the descriptors outlined in the Clinical Skills Capability Framework: Emergency Services for a Level 1 service or above), minor injury and illness clinics/centres, satellite hospitals and urgent care clinics, virtual emergency care clinics, rapid access clinics and other equivalent services and facilities.

[2] Credentialed in accordance with the Health Service Directive : Credentialing and defining the scope of clinical practice https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/policies-standards/health-service-directives/credentialing-and-defining-the-scope-of-clinical-practice.

Version	Replaces version	Date approved	Commencement date
3	2	10 October 2025	1 December 2025

3. Before prescribing or administering a medicine listed in this EPA, the physiotherapist must be familiar with the contra-indication(s) and known side effects of the medicine and advise the patient accordingly.

Circumstances and conditions for immunisation medicines

4. For immunisation medicines listed in Appendix 3, the physiotherapist who is authorised to prescribe and/or administer immunisation medicines, must prescribe and/or administer these medicines as stated in:
    a. the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*; or
    b. the current recommendations issued by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI); or
    c. the product information approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA); or
    d. the current recommendations provided on the *Immunisation Schedule Queensland*.
5. Before immunisation medicines are administered, the physiotherapist must ensure the equipment and procedures detailed in the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook* are in place.
6. When immunisation medicines are in the possession of the physiotherapist, the physiotherapist must ensure that the storage and transport of immunisation medicines is undertaken in accordance with the *National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5*.
7. A physiotherapist who administers an immunisation medicine must:
    a. record the immunisation details on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as soon as practicable, and ideally at the time of immunisation; and
    b. notify of any adverse events occurring following immunisation using the Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) form published on the Queensland Health website.

Appendix 1 – Approved training

Approved training is a tertiary level study program equivalent to Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 8, delivered through a higher education institution accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

The study program must cover the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the National Prescribing Service (NPS) MedicineWise - Prescribing Competencies Framework[3]. Assessment must cover the essential competencies of clinical therapeutics, safe prescribing and quality use of medicines. A period of supervised practice must be a component of the study program and the physiotherapist prescriber must be supervised by an authorised prescriber for this element.

[3] Available at https://www.nps.org.au/prescribing-competencies-framework

Appendix 2 – Approved medicines

Antibiotics for wound management

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid	Oral	For the management of minor wounds that are infected, or at risk of infection associated with musculoskeletal injuries
Cefalexin	Oral	
Ciprofloxacin	Oral	
Clindamycin	Oral	
Dicloxacillin	Oral	
Doxycycline	Oral	
Flucloxacillin	Oral	
Metronidazole	Oral	
Trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole	Oral	

Antiemetics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Metoclopramide	Oral	
Ondansetron[4]	Oral	

Antispasmodics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Diazepam	Oral	

Emergency response to anaphylaxis

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Adrenaline (epinephrine)	Intramuscular Intranasal	

[4] Use for non-specific nausea and vomiting is off label. Ensure appropriate documentation and evaluation is undertaken as per CATAG guiding principles for the quality use of off label medicines.

Inhaled analgesics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Nitrous oxide and oxygen	Inhalation	A mixture containing up to 70% nitrous oxide with oxygen

Local anaesthetics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Lidocaine	Subcutaneous Topical	
Lidocaine with adrenaline (epinephrine)	Subcutaneous	
Lidocaine/tetracaine/ adrenaline (epinephrine)	Topical	
Lidocaine/prilocaine	Topical	

Medicines for the management of gastrointestinal side effects associated with prescribed analgesics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Esomeprazole	Oral	
Omeprazole	Oral	
Pantoprazole	Oral	

Management of neuropathic pain

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Amitriptyline	Oral	
Pregabalin	Oral	

Non-opioid analgesics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Celecoxib	Oral	
Diclofenac	Oral	
Ibuprofen	Oral	
Indometacin	Oral	
Ketorolac	Intramuscular	
Meloxicam	Oral	
Naproxen	Oral	
Paracetamol	Oral	

Opioid analgesics

Regulated substance	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Codeine phosphate	Oral	
Oxycodone	Oral	
Oxycodone/naloxone	Oral	
Paracetamol/codeine phosphate	Oral	
Tapentadol	Oral	
Tramadol	Oral	

Appendix 3 – Immunisation medicines

Regulated substance/antigen	Approved route of administration	Restrictions/Conditions
Diphtheria	Intramuscular	For persons aged 10 years or over with a tetanus-prone wound
Pertussis	Intramuscular	
Tetanus	Intramuscular	