

Drugs of Dependency Policy

This policy relates to the prescribing of Schedule 8 (S8) and Schedule 4 (S4) medicines at Campbell Medical Practice. Schedule 8 medications are defined by the Poisons Act 1964 as:

“Substances which should be available for use but require restriction of manufacture, supply, distribution, possession and use to reduce abuse, misuse and physical or psychological dependence”.

It is the policy of this practice to not supply drugs of addiction to any patient requesting scripts unless medical evidence can be supplied to substantiate the need for these drugs.

It is up to the doctor to make an informed decision on each patient's needs. Our GPs are respectful, non-judgmental and have clear responses to inappropriate requests for drugs of dependence.

Campbell Medical Practice believes that to provide quality care for their patients, all prescriptions require an appointment with the doctor. **The prescribing of S8 and S4 will NOT be done on the first visit with a new GP**, unless the patient can provide evidence of undergoing palliative treatment or if they meet the following criteria:

1. The patient can produce documentation from their treating Specialist (NOT a GP), dated less than 3 months prior to their consultation, confirming the reason for treatment, drug, dose, frequency, and duration of treatment.
2. The GP can contact this Specialist and confirm that the details of this documentation are true.
3. The patient is not registered with the Dr Shopper Hotline and is not currently participating in a Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy.

The prescribing GP can cease or decline prescribing an S8 medication to a patient for the following reasons:

- If the patient demonstrates any form of abusive or intimidating behaviour
- The GP determines that ongoing treatment with an S8 medication is no longer beneficial to the patient
- The patient is not planning to be a long-term patient at the practice
- For any other reason determined to be suitable by the GP
- In certain circumstances, GPs may only prescribe a limited amount of medication to be dispensed at a time. This is done in the best interest of patient safety and to encourage appropriate use of medication.

Certain Schedule 8 medications cannot be prescribed by a GP and a prescription will need to be provided by a Specialist. If this occurs, Campbell Medical Practice can assist with a referral to the required Specialist.

Campbell Medical Practice applies this policy to certain Schedule 4 medications such as temazepam, diazepam and to any other medication they deem suitable.

Our GPs have the right to discontinue care of a patient who has behaved violently or threateningly. Patients are reminded that we have zero tolerance for issues relating to staff abuse. Any threats to staff will result in transfer of your care.