Australian Capital Territory

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Standing CHO approval for designated prescribers to prescribe controlled medicines for ADHD) Approval 2026 (No 2)

Notifiable instrument NI2026–530

made under the

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, section 554 (Standing CHO approval to prescribe controlled medicines in certain circumstances – Act s 20(1)(c))

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1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Standing CHO approval for designated prescribers to prescribe controlled medicines for ADHD) Approval 2026 (No 2).*

2 Commencement

This instrument commences two weeks after the date of notification.

3 Revocation

This instrument revokes the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Standing CHO approval for designated prescribers to prescribe controlled medicines for ADHD) Approval 2026 (No 1) – NI2026-9.

4 Standing CHO approval to prescribe controlled medicines

I approve a designated prescriber to prescribe a controlled medicine for a patient in accordance with Schedule 1 – *Standing CHO approval for psychiatrists, paediatricians and neurologists to prescribe controlled medicines for the treatment of ADHD.*

Dr Heidi Carroll
Chief Health Officer
11 November 2026

ACT Government

SCHEDULE 1

Unique identifying number PHD2026/0002123C
Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, s 554

Standing CHO approval for psychiatrists, paediatricians and neurologists to prescribe controlled medicines for the treatment of ADHD

1. Authority

This instrument is made under the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, section 554 and provides a Chief Health Officer (CHO) Standing approval for a class of designated prescribers to prescribe controlled medicines for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

2. Class of designated prescribers

A designated prescriber is a medical practitioner who holds specialist registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) in one or more of the following fields:

Specialty	Field of specialist practice
Psychiatry	*All fields*
Paediatrics and child health	*Any field*
Physician	*Neurology*

3. Conditions

A designated prescriber's approval to prescribe a controlled medicine under this CHO Standing approval is subject to the following conditions:

a) The prescription must be indicated for the treatment of ADHD for a patient aged four (4) years or older;

b) The prescribed medicine must be listed in Column 1 of the table below, and the prescribed dose must not exceed the corresponding maximum daily dose limit specified in Column 2;

Column 1 - Medicine	Column 2 - Maximum daily dose limit
Dexamfetamine	*50 milligrams*
Lisdexamfetamine	*70 milligrams*
Methylphenidate	*108 milligrams*

c) The prescriber reasonably believes that the patient is not a drug-dependent person in relation to any controlled medicine or prohibited substance;

d) The prescriber must register with the ACT Monitored Medicines Database (also known as Canberra Script^), and must review and consider any relevant patient information in the patient profile in Canberra Script before issuing each prescription under this CHO Standing approval; and

e) The prescription must be generated electronically, either as an electronic prescription token or a computer-generated prescription printed from a clinical software system with integration to the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) National Data Exchange (NDE).

Note: Printed prescriptions generated by clinical software may also be signed manually and provided to the patient in paper form. All prescription particulars, including medicine details and directions for use, must be computer-generated. Handwritten prescriptions cannot be issued under this CHO Standing approval.

^Health practitioners can register with Canberra Script at www.canberrascript.act.gov.au

4. Definitions

In this instrument:

- **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)** means a diagnosis meeting the criteria in the:
  - *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,* fifth edition (DSM-5), or any subsequent edition published by the American Psychiatric Association, or
  - *International Classification of Diseases*, 11th Revision (ICD-11), or any subsequent revision published by the World Health Organization.

- **Drug-dependent person** has the same meaning as in the Dictionary of the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008.

- **Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) National Data Exchange (NDE)** means an ICT system managed by the ADHA, which captures, processes and stores information received from conformant prescribing and dispensing software and from State and Territory regulatory systems.