Australian Capital Territory

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Standing CHO approval for general practitioners to prescribe controlled medicines for ADHD) Approval 2026 (No 1)

Notifiable instrument NI2026–8

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 general practitioners to prescribe controlled medicines for ADHD) Approval 2026 (No 1).*

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 11 February 2026.

3 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 general practitioners to prescribe controlled medicines for the continued treatment of ADHD.*

Dr Kerryn Coleman
Chief Health Officer
2 January 2026

ACT Government

SCHEDULE 1

HCSD Unique identifying number PHD2025/0002359B

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, s 554

Standing CHO approval for general practitioners (GPs) to prescribe controlled medicines for the continued 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

The following are considered designated prescribers for this CHO Standing approval:

a) A medical practitioner who holds specialist registration in General Practice with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra), including practitioners trained outside Australia but who have been assessed and approved by Ahpra for specialist General Practice registration;

b) A medical practitioner enrolled as a General Practice registrar in a recognised primary care vocational training program administered by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

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 prescriber must submit a notification form[#] advising the Chief Health Officer of their intention to prescribe controlled medicines under this CHO Standing approval;

b) The prescription must be indicated for the treatment of ADHD for a patient aged six (6) years or older;

c) The medicine prescribed must be:

   i) 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; and

   ii) for the continuation of a course of treatment that has been initiated or reviewed by a **relevant specialist**; and

   iii) not be a different medicine listed in Column 1 from that previously prescribed, unless:

- the change is between dexamfetamine and lisdexamfetamine and the prescribed dose complies with Column 2;

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

Note: This clause does not prevent the prescribing of different formulations of the same medicine (for example, immediate-release and modified-release formulations of methylphenidate).

d) 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.

e) The prescriber has completed at least one of the below Approved Training Courses prior to prescribing under this CHO Standing approval;

Approved course of training	Description of training
1. RACGP GPlearning	Completion of 2 modules: • Identification and management of ADHD; and • The pharmacological management of ADHD
2. Medcast ADHD uncovered: a practical guide for GPs	Completion of 2 modules: • Diagnosis and management of ADHD; and • Pharmacological management of ADHD
3. The Academy by Psych Scene : ADHD Excellence Across the Lifespan	Completion of 3 modules: • Diagnosis and management of ADHD in childhood and adolescence; • A comprehensive guide to adult ADHD in General Practice; and • Advanced ADHD psychopharmacology: Medications, neuroscience and prescribing guidelines for clinicians

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

g) 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.

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

[#] Notification forms are available on the Health and Community Services Directorate webpage www.act.gov.au/health/prescribing-controlled-and-monitored-medicines

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.

- **Relevant specialist** means a medical practitioner who holds specialist registration under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law in one of the following specialties:
  - Psychiatry
  - Paediatrics and Child Health
  - Physician, in the field of specialty practice of Neurology

- **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.