

# **Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Standing CHO approval for designated prescribers to prescribe controlled medicines for ADHD) Approval 2026 (No 1)**

## **Notifiable instrument NI2026–9**

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))**

---

### **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 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 psychiatrists, paediatricians and neurologists to prescribe controlled medicines for the treatment of ADHD*.

Dr Kerryn Coleman  
Chief Health Officer  
2 January 2026



*Unique identifying number PHD2025/0002359A  
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:

<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Field of specialist practice</b>
<i>Psychiatry</i>	<i>All fields</i>
<i>Paediatrics and child health</i>	<i>Any field</i>
<i>Physician</i>	<i>Neurology</i>

### **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;

<b>Column 1 - Medicine</b>	<b>Column 2 - Maximum daily dose limit</b>
<i>Dexamfetamine</i>	<i>50 milligrams</i>
<i>Lisdexamfetamine</i>	<i>70 milligrams</i>
<i>Methylphenidate</i>	<i>108 milligrams</i>

c) 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.*

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

e) The prescriber must register with the ACT Monitored Medicines Database (also known as [Canberra Script](#)<sup>^</sup>), 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.

<sup>^</sup>Health practitioners can register with Canberra Script at [www.canberrascript.act.gov.au](http://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*, 11<sup>th</sup> 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.