

 Tasmanian Government	<b>THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES BRANCH</b>  Please distribute to all pharmacists in your pharmacy, clinic, or facility		
	<b>Public Health Services</b>		
<b>2 April 2025</b>	<b>No. of pages: 1</b>	<b>Phone: 6166 0400</b>	<b>Fax: 6173 0820</b>

## **Changes to Prescription Expiry Periods for Dispensing of Schedule 4 Declared Restricted Substances**

Pharmaceutical Services Branch (PSB) within the Department of Health wishes to provide information to Tasmanian pharmacists on the implementation of enabling changes to support patient access to Schedule 4 Declared Restricted (S4D) Substances.

Regulation 51(18) of the Poisons Regulations 2018 has been amended by the Tasmanian Government to enable prescriptions for S4Ds to be dispensed for up to 12 months from the date of issue, aligning with other Schedule 4 prescriptions, to reduce demand on access to prescribers for these prescriptions.

PSB can confirm these changes mean prescriptions for S4Ds written in the last 12 months are valid for dispensing.

PSB has been made aware that some dispensing software systems restrict the dispensing of S4D prescriptions which are over 6 months old. PSB has informed these software vendors of these changes and understand the relevant vendors will be working on any necessary configuration changes to support you as soon as possible.

Please note these changes do not apply to Schedule 8 prescriptions nor current restrictions on dispensing prescriptions for S4Ds issued by prescribers practising outside of Tasmania.

[Consultation on proposed amendments \(www.health.tas.gov.au/proposed-changes-interstate-prescribing\)](http://www.health.tas.gov.au/proposed-changes-interstate-prescribing) to the poisons legislation regarding the dispensing of interstate prescriptions is currently underway.

This enabling amendment was made by the Tasmanian Government in late November 2023 and published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette in accordance with statutory publication requirements; however, a communication failure has occurred meaning targeted communication was not provided to stakeholders at the time of regulation change. We unreservedly apologise for this.

We have a strong desire to work with all our health professionals and stakeholders to develop a pathway so that communication of legislative changes is successful in the future. We welcome suggestions from you on this matter to [pharmserv@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:pharmserv@health.tas.gov.au).

PSB acknowledges the invaluable role you continue to play supporting the safe supply of medicines to Tasmanians and look forward to hearing from you on how we can improve our targeted communication on medicines and poisons legislative changes.

This document and any following pages are intended solely for the named addresses and may contain information that is confidential and privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, note that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and destroy the original message.