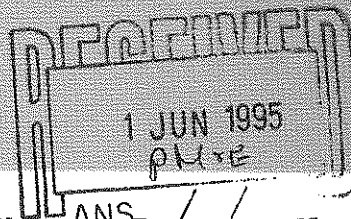


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Acute Health Services Division

Hospital Circular



H&CS
HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

Distribution: Public Hospitals with Pharmacy Departments

Subject: Permits to purchase drugs

Purpose

The purpose of this circular is to advise hospitals of amendments to the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (the Act) which affect the way in which hospitals can purchase drugs and be in possession of drugs for treatment of patients.

Objective of legislation

This legislation has as its objective the protection of the health of the public by introducing measures to minimise the harm caused by the misuse or abuse of the drugs, poisons and controlled substances with which it is concerned. It achieves this objective through an ordered system of controls over distribution and possession of these substances.

Effect of this legislation on hospitals

Until recently, the legislation contained an anomaly which meant that hospitals with pharmacy departments were not completely covered legally for the drugs possessed by and supplied from the hospital.

The anomaly was rectified with an amendment to the Act which was proclaimed in September 1994. The effect is that it is now clear that hospitals with pharmacy departments must hold a permit under the Act.

In addition, replacement of the present prescriptive regulations under the Act with performance based regulations is imminent.

Advantages to hospitals

The advantages of the amendment to the Act and the new regulations are that there will be:

- ▶ the ability to apply specific conditions to permits to accommodate circumstances peculiar to individual hospitals;
- ▶ flexibility to enable the legal introduction of innovative practices and new technology in the handling, administration and supply of drugs.

Cost to hospitals

The fees which apply to the permits required are as follows:

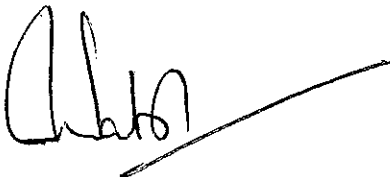
CATEGORY	NEW	RENEWAL
Non-residential - 30 beds	\$492	\$275
31 - 100 beds	\$564	\$299
Over 100 beds	\$798	\$377

All private hospitals and public hospitals without pharmacy departments currently comply with the requirements of the Act and are able to be in legal possession of the drugs they have purchased, as they already hold permits.

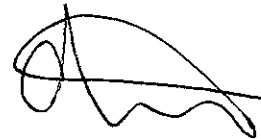
Action required

All public hospitals with pharmacy departments must now hold permits.

Officers of the Drugs and Poisons Unit will contact hospitals via Directors of Pharmacy in due course.



DR MICHAEL WALSH
DIRECTOR
ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES



DR CHRIS BROOK
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC HEALTH