

GENERAL EXEMPTION NOTICE

For the purpose of section 175(4A) of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW) (the Act), the Secretary, NSW Health has made a written recommendation on 30 July 2018 for medical treatment in particular circumstances to be generally exempt from the prohibition in section 175(1) of the Act on medical practitioners carrying out special medical treatment on a child.

In accordance with section 175(4A) of the Act, I, **MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER**, Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services hereby grant a general exemption from the prohibition in section 175(1) in relation to the administration of the drugs referred to in the attached Schedule on the conditions referred to in that Schedule.

This exemption has been revised from 18 December 2000 and is valid from the date it is signed until it is revoked.



Michael Coutts-Trotter
Secretary
Department of Family and Community Services

Dated 27.9.18

SCHEDULE TO GENERAL EXEMPTION NOTICE

Medical treatment involving the administration of a drug of addiction within the meaning of the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* to a child could be necessarily and appropriately given in the three situations outlined below.

1. MEDICAL TREATMENT OF CANCER

The drugs and doses

Any drug of addiction may be appropriate, at doses titrated to meet the needs of the patient.

The circumstances

The *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* requires the medical practitioner to seek proper authority to prescribe or supply a drug of addiction for continuous therapeutic use by a person for a period exceeding two months in respect of drugs of addiction intended for administration by injection, inhalation, spray or application to mucous membranes, alprazolam, buprenorphine (other than in transdermal patches), flunitrazepam, hydromorphone and methadone.

2. MEDICAL TREATMENT OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

The drugs and doses

Dexamphetamine, methylphenidate, and lisdexamfetamine are drugs of addiction used to treat this condition. Dosage is based principally on the weight of the child, within the dose range set out in the criteria referred to below.

The circumstances

The Stimulants Subcommittee of the Medical Committee constituted under section 30A of the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* has set criteria for the prescribing of drugs for this condition. The Subcommittee is constituted to advise the Secretary, NSW Health on the prescription of the above medications for children and adolescents.

Prescribing the drugs in accordance with the criteria does not require individual authorisation for approved specialist prescribers. Prescribing outside the criteria or by other than approved specialist prescribers must be individually authorised following reference to the subcommittee.

3. MEDICAL TREATMENT OF NARCOLEPSY

The drugs and doses

Dexamphetamine and methylphenidate are drugs of addiction used to treat this condition, at doses titrated to the patient's needs.

The circumstances

The drugs may be prescribed for narcolepsy only with the prior written authority of the Secretary, NSW Health following satisfactory assessment and diagnosis.

Michael Coutts-Trotter
Secretary
Department of Family and Community Services