

# Application for a permit to treat an opioid dependent person with methadone or buprenorphine



## Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

(Please print legibly in block letters and provide all information. Explanatory notes overleaf)

<b>APPLICANT DETAILS</b>		SURNAME (FAMILY NAME)	FIRST NAME
PRACTICE ADDRESS			
SUBURB/TOWN		POSTCODE	
QUALIFICATIONS	TELEPHONE	FAX	
EMAIL ADDRESS			
I certify that this patient shows evidence of dependence on an opioid drug and that, in my opinion, methadone or buprenorphine is required in support of treatment.			
Signature:.....		Date:.....	

<b>PATIENT DETAILS</b>		SURNAME (FAMILY NAME)	FIRST NAME
ADDRESS			
SUBURB/TOWN		POSTCODE	ABORIGINAL <input type="radio"/> TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER <input type="radio"/>
			ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER <input type="radio"/>
			NO <input type="radio"/> NOT STATED <input type="radio"/>
DATE OF BIRTH (DAY/MONTH/YEAR)	SEX	MALE <input type="radio"/>	ALIASES (IF ANY)
		FEMALE <input type="radio"/>	
DRUGS USED		MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME	

<b>TREATMENT DETAILS OF PATIENT</b>			
PERIOD FOR WHICH PERMIT IS SOUGHT (IF SHORT-TERM)	DAYS <input type="radio"/>	WEEKS <input type="radio"/>	MONTHS <input type="radio"/>
	ONGOING <input type="radio"/>	(INDICATE CHOICE)	
HAS THE PATIENT BEEN TREATED PREVIOUSLY WITH METHADONE OR BUPRENORPHINE FOR OPIOID DEPENDENCY?	YES <input type="radio"/>	NO <input type="radio"/>	IF YES, WAS IT IN: VICTORIA <input type="radio"/> INTERSTATE <input type="radio"/>
IS THE PATIENT TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER PRESCRIBER?	YES <input type="radio"/>	HAS THE PREVIOUS PRESCRIBER BEEN ADVISED OF THE TRANSFER?	YES <input type="radio"/>
	NO <input type="radio"/>		NO <input type="radio"/>
		WHAT WAS THE LAST DRUG PRESCRIBED?	METHADONE <input type="radio"/>
			BUPRENORPHINE <input type="radio"/>
NAME OF PREVIOUS PRESCRIBER		SUBURB (OR STATE IF INTERSTATE TRANSFER)	
TELEPHONE	WHEN WAS THE LAST DOSE ADMINISTERED? (SHOULD BE CONFIRMED WITH DOSING POINT)		PLEASE NOTE: THE APPLICATION MAY NOT BE PROCESSED IF THE PREVIOUS PRESCRIBER HAS NOT BEEN ADVISED OF THE TRANSFER OR IF THE DATE OF THE LAST DOSE ADMINISTERED HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED.
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR

<b>DOSING POINT DETAILS</b>		
DOSES TO BE OBTAINED FROM - (NAME OF PHARMACY OR OTHER DOSING POINT)		
ADDRESS	SUBURB/TOWN	POSTCODE
TELEPHONE	FAX	

<p>Approved pharmacotherapy prescribers who have undertaken training in administration of Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine (LAIB) may be issued a permit to treat with methadone and buprenorphine (sublingual and long acting injection).</p> <p>Practitioners who have <b>not</b> undertaken the Pharmacotherapy GP Training Program may be issued a permit to treat with buprenorphine (combined with naloxone) for up to 5 patients.</p>	<b>NOMINATE STARTING DRUG (SELECT ONE ONLY)</b>		
		<b>STARTING DOSE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>
		mg	DAY MONTH YEAR
	<input type="radio"/> METHADONE		
	<input type="radio"/> BUPRENORPHINE		
<input type="radio"/> BUPRENORPHINE (+ NALOXONE)			
<input type="radio"/> BUPRENORPHINE (LONG ACTING INJECTION)			

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Victorian legislation makes it a requirement for medical practitioners and nurse practitioners to hold a permit to prescribe Schedule 8 poisons under certain circumstances. The following table summarises the requirements of the legislation as it relates to the treatment of drug dependent persons. The Department of Health and Human Services has also developed a policy for the issue of Schedule 8 permits. A copy of this policy is available from the Drugs and Poisons Regulation (DPR) website at: [www.health.vic.gov.au/dpcs](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/dpcs).

## SUMMARY OF LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

### (i) Permit required BEFORE treating a drug dependent person

The Act requires a medical or nurse practitioner to hold a permit BEFORE prescribing any Schedule 8 poison to a drug dependent person, except in certain exempt circumstances.

### (ii) General exemptions

Medical or nurse practitioners are not required to hold a permit where the patient:

- is an in-patient in a hospital;
- is in an aged care service;
- is a prisoner being treated in prison or for a period not exceeding 7 days after release from prison;

A practitioner working in a multiple practitioner clinic may prescribe without holding a permit if:

- the treatment is provided at the multiple practitioner clinic, and
- another practitioner at that clinic already holds a permit to treat the patient with the same drug, and
- the treatment is in accordance with that permit.

**Important note:** These general exemptions also apply to the treatment of drug dependent persons, but the practitioner is still required to make a notification of drug dependence if he or she intends to treat with a drug of dependence.

### (iii) Avoid delays in processing

Applications cannot be processed until all the information required by legislation is provided. Please ensure that ALL details are completed and the form is signed and dated.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PRIVACY

It is a requirement of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (the Act) that the information set out in this form is provided to the Department of Health and Human Services to meet statutory notification requirements, and for the issuing of permits as required under the Act. The collection, use and disclosure of the information provided will be in accordance with the law, including the provisions of the *Health Records Act 2001*. The information collected may be disclosed to health practitioners practising in the following health professions: medical, nursing and midwifery and pharmacy, when necessary to facilitate coordination of the patient's drug treatment and safe prescribing of drugs. For example, it may be necessary to disclose this information when another health practitioner applies for a permit or is considering prescribing a drug of dependence. The application may not be processed if all information requested on the form is not completed.

Further information about privacy or about Victorian drugs and poisons legislation may be obtained by calling Drugs and Poisons Regulation on 1300 364 545 or visiting the DPR website at: [www.health.vic.gov.au/dpcs](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/dpcs).

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE COLLECTION OF ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ORIGIN DATA

The term Aboriginal refers to people who identify as descendants of the original inhabitants of Australia, including Tasmania, and the term Torres Strait Islander refers to descendants of the original inhabitants of the Torres Strait Islands and northern Cape York Peninsula.

Aboriginal people as a group have some common health issues which differ from the overall population. It is important to collect Aboriginal status when services are provided, in order to build a picture of service use by Aboriginal people, and to develop strategies and policies for future service provision.

Three levels of identification of Aboriginal people are used in data collections. In health data collections in Victoria, only self-identification as an Aboriginal person is requested. Persons identifying themselves as Aboriginal are not required to provide evidence of descent or community acceptance. Patients should be asked directly if they are Aboriginal, rather than the service provider judging on appearance. Patients should also be reassured that identification will not affect their right to appropriate services, and that their individual data will remain confidential.