



Communiqué

17 December 2015

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the Authority) met on 8 December 2015 at the Authority offices.

This communiqué contains a summary of recent Panel Hearings.

Panel Hearings

During November, four Panel Hearings were held into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities.

Some of the deficiencies and Panel outcomes are summarised below.

Case 1.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises, in that there was:

- Failure to ensure records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- Failure to record details of Schedule 8 transactions as soon as practicable after completing a transaction.

The proprietor was reprimanded.

Case 2.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was:

- Failure to ensure records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- Failure to store significant quantities of Schedule 8 poisons in a Schedule 8 poisons safe;
- Failure to pack pre-measured daily doses of methadone in sealed containers labelled with the full name of the client and the name and total dose of the drug, to store methadone on hand in a clearly labelled bottle, and to maintain a pharmacotherapy procedure manual detailing systems in place at the pharmacy;
- Failure to maintain client privacy and confidentiality when disposing of records and containers.

The proprietor had certified that some of these matters had been rectified following a previous inspection.

The proprietor was reprimanded. A condition was placed on the pharmacy business licence requiring the proprietor to conduct and submit quarterly self-audits of the pharmacy, and to undertake a course in Ethics and Dispensing in Pharmacy Practice. The Panel also determined that the premises be re-inspected at the proprietor's cost, the fee being \$314.50.

Case 3.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was:

- Failure to ensure records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- Failure to ensure secure attachment of a Schedule 8 safe;
- Failure to maintain the dispensary as a private area dedicated to the dispensing of medicines and storage of patients' records.

The proprietor was cautioned.

Case 4.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was:

- Failure to ensure records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- Failure to store Schedule 8 poisons in a Schedule 8 poisons safe;
- Failure to maintain adequate security alarm coverage of all areas where Schedule 8 poisons are stored

The proprietor was reprimanded.

Statistics

At 17 December 2015 there were:

1346 pharmacies

76 pharmacy departments

29 pharmacy depots

On behalf of the Authority and its staff I wish you a safe and happy festive season and best wishes for 2016.

Toni Riley
Chair