Where can I receive more information and support?

Technical support
IT.safescript@dhhs.vic.gov.au   Phone: 1800 723 379

All other enquiries
safescript@dhhs.vic.gov.au   Phone: 9096 5633

**Visit our website
and subscribe to the
SafeScript newsletter**   www.health.vic.gov.au/safescript
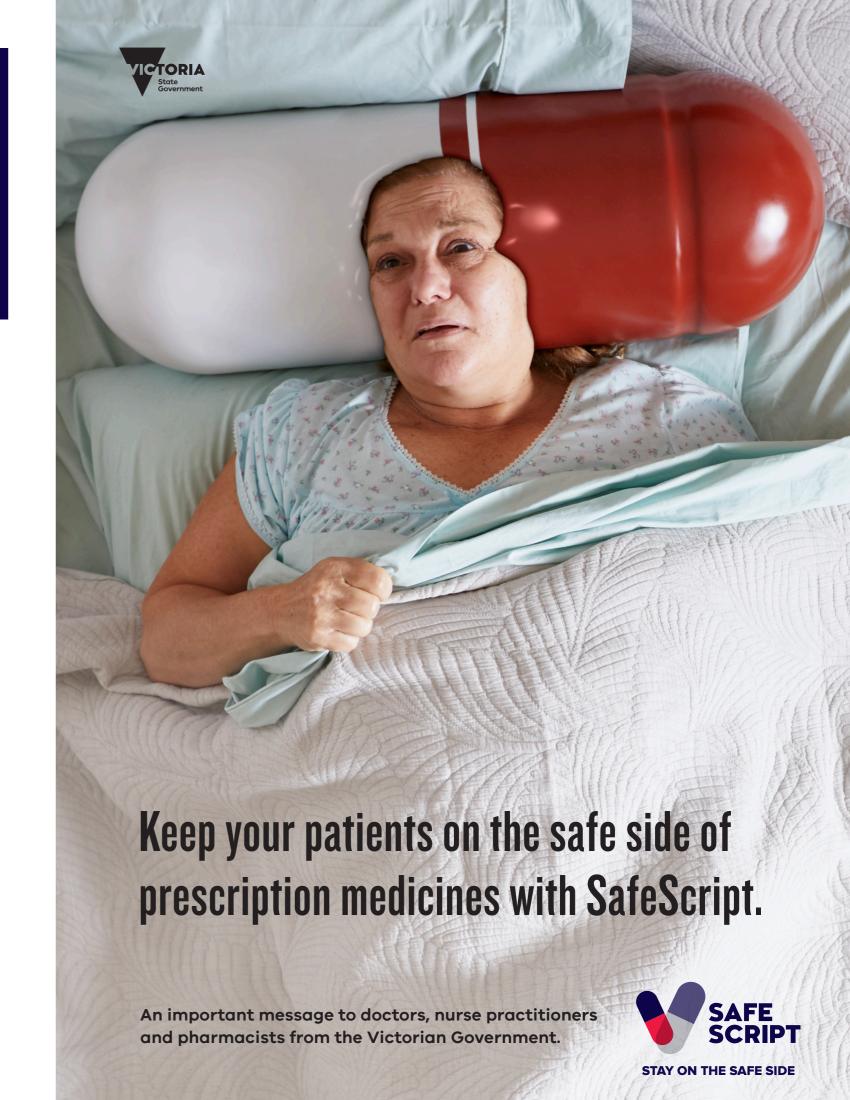
Follow us on Twitter   @SafeScript

SAFE SCRIPT

STAY ON THE SAFE SIDE

VICTORIA
State Government

Keep your patients on the safe side of prescription medicines with SafeScript.

An important message to doctors, nurse practitioners and pharmacists from the Victorian Government.

SAFE SCRIPT

STAY ON THE SAFE SIDE

Introducing SafeScript, a new system to help you make safer decisions about whether to prescribe or dispense a high-risk medicine.

What is SafeScript?

SafeScript is computer software that will help you provide safer care to patients taking certain high-risk prescription medicines. It provides you with comprehensive information on the prescription history of a patient including clinical alerts to help you identify earlier when a patient may be at risk of harm and require further support.

Why is SafeScript being implemented?

The significant and increasing harms from high-risk prescription medicines are a serious public health concern. In recent years, more Victorians have died from overdoses involving pharmaceutical medicines than from illicit drugs or the road toll.

This is your opportunity to do something that will make a difference and potentially save lives.

Which medicines are monitored through SafeScript?

Prescription medicines that are causing the greatest harm to the Victorian community are monitored through SafeScript.

These include all Schedule 8 medicines, such as:

- oxycodone (brand names include OxyContin and Endone)
- morphine (brand names include Kapanol and MS Contin)
- alprazolam (brand names include Kalma)
- methylphenidate (brand names include Ritalin)

and some Schedule 4 medicines including:

- all benzodiazepines (brand names include Valium)
- zolpidem and zopiclone (brand names include Stilnox and Imovane)
- quetiapine (brand names include Seroquel)
- products containing codeine (brand names include Nurofen Plus, Mersyndol and Panadeine Forte).

Does SafeScript decide whether I can prescribe or dispense a medicine?

No, you are still responsible for your own clinical decisions and you will not be prevented from prescribing or dispensing a medicine you consider to be clinically necessary. SafeScript will provide you with more information to help you identify high-risk circumstances but will not make a decision for you.

Do I have to use SafeScript?

From April 2020, it will be mandatory for you to check SafeScript when writing or dispensing a prescription for a high-risk medicine that is captured in the system. There will be some exceptions such as when you are treating a hospital in-patient, an aged care resident, or a patient receiving palliative care.

SafeScript is a useful clinical tool that enables you to provide better co-ordinated care, minimise the risk of harm from high-risk medicines and help identify patients who may need additional support to manage their medicines. The system is easy to use, safe and secure.

Starting to use SafeScript now gives you an opportunity to familiarise yourself with the system and incorporate it into your clinical practice.

I am a prescriber who prefers to handwrite prescriptions. Can I access SafeScript?

Yes, you can always access SafeScript through a secure web portal on any computer or tablet at **www.safescript.vic.gov.au** regardless of whether you issue computer-generated prescriptions or handwritten prescriptions.

What do I need to do to get started?

☑ **Register for SafeScript from mid-August 2018**
You should have received a SafeScript email in mid-August to your AHPRA email address which contains a link to complete your registration. For security reasons, only you can register yourself for SafeScript. Registration is a simple, automated and quick process.

If you did not receive this email, registration is available at **www.safescript.vic.gov.au**

☑ **Complete SafeScript training**
A range of training opportunities is available to support you in using SafeScript and responding to the needs of patients. This includes online modules and locally delivered face to face sessions which both attract CPD points. There are three training modules. They cover safe supply of high-risk medicines, using respectful communication to discuss medicine dependence, as well as how to use SafeScript.

More information and a link to the training can be found at **www.health.vic.gov.au/safescript**

☑ **Set-up SafeScript on your computer for a better user experience**
SafeScript will always be available to all registered clinicians through a secure web portal at **www.safescript.vic.gov.au**

A feature of SafeScript is the pop-up notifications you can receive on your computer to help quickly identify when you need to view information in SafeScript. This feature is supported by the majority of clinical software.

The Department of Health and Human Services will notify your practice or pharmacy from September on how to set-up these notifications. Depending on the clinical software you use, most practices and pharmacies will only need to download the latest version of their clinical software. Some may need to download an app on their computer. You may require your practice manager or pharmacist-in-charge to install this on your computer.

☑ **Start to use SafeScript as a clinical decision support tool from October 2018**

In recent years, more Victorians have died from overdoses involving prescription medicines than from illicit drugs or the road toll.

Deaths in Victoria	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prescription medicines	303	312	316	356	381	414
Illicit drugs	130	163	164	227	263	271
Road toll	282	243	248	252	290	258