



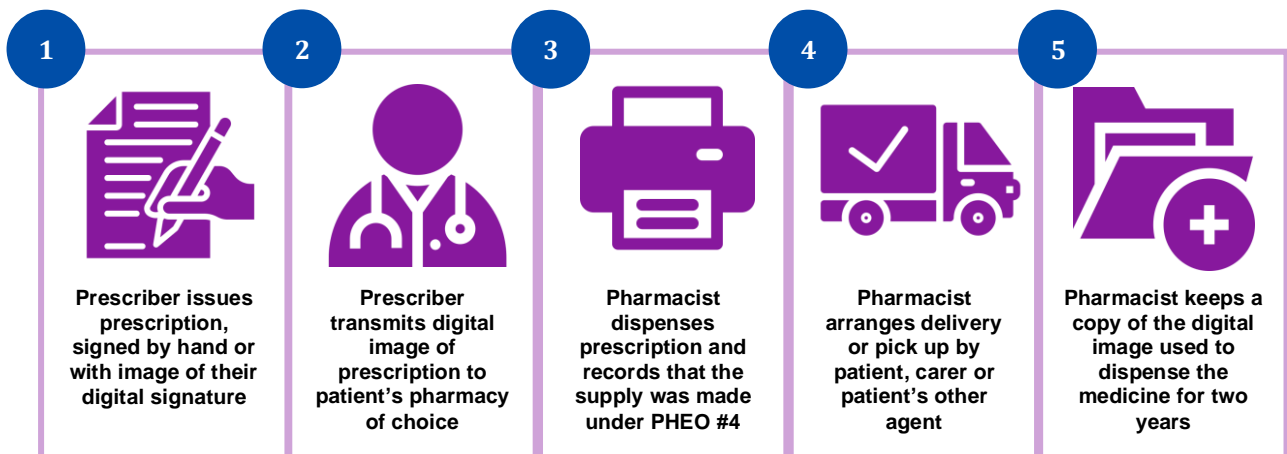
# Information for Community Pharmacists

Medicines and Poisons Regulation Victoria

## Digital Images of Prescriptions

From 7 April 2020, community pharmacists in Victoria can dispense a prescription for a Schedule 4 medicine (excluding drugs of dependence) using a digital image of the prescription transmitted from a prescriber by email, SMS, facsimile or other electronic method (Public health emergency order #4 (PHEO #4)).

This temporary measure has been implemented to facilitate telehealth consultations and access to medicines during the coronavirus response. This measure is in place until midnight 6 October 2020 unless earlier revoked.



## What you need to know

- Digital images of prescriptions must not be used to dispense Schedule 8 medicines or Schedule 4 drugs of dependence. Drugs of dependence include all opioids, benzodiazepines and anabolic steroids.
- The digital image of the paper prescription must be an unaltered photo image or unaltered facsimile image of an original prescription.
- The prescriber must transmit the digital image of the prescription directly to the pharmacist.
- Prescriptions must not be dispensed from an email, photo or SMS presented by a patient or sent from another pharmacy.
- A digital image of a prescription must not be transmitted to another pharmacy for dispensing.
- Repeats from a digital image of a prescription may be issued. All repeat authorisations must be supplied and held in the same pharmacy that received and dispensed from the digital image of the prescription.

## Need more information

Visit the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons>

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 364 545, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [dpcs@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:dpcs@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health and Human Services May 2020.