



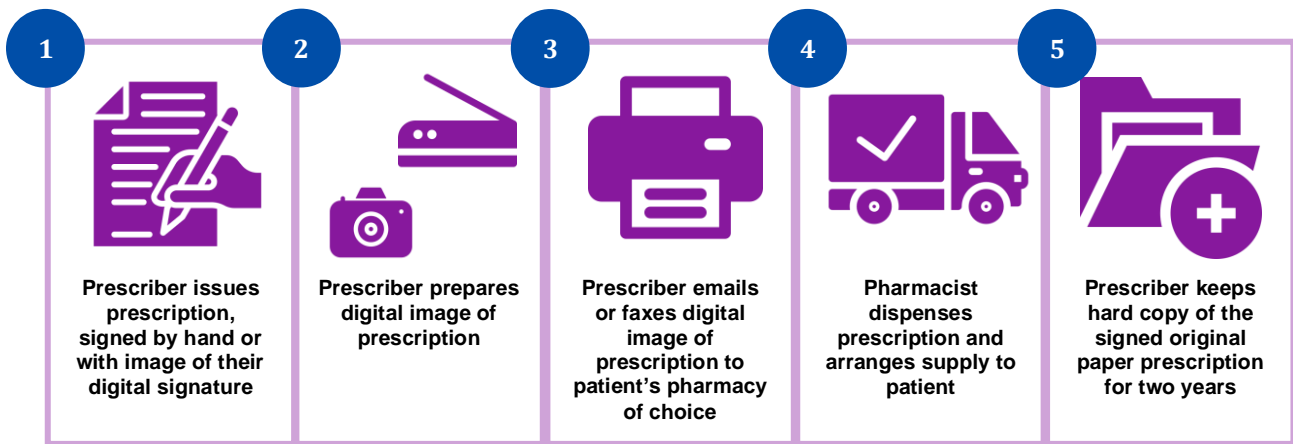
Information for Prescribers

Medicines and Poisons Regulation Victoria

Digital Images of Prescriptions

Prescribers in Victoria can now transmit a digital image of a prescription for a Schedule 4 medicine (excluding drugs of dependence) to pharmacists. From 7 April 2020, prescriptions can be transmitted to a community pharmacy by email, SMS, facsimile or other electronic method for dispensing (Public health emergency order #4 (PHEO #4)).

This temporary measure has been implemented to facilitate telehealth consultations and access to medicines during the coronavirus (COVID-19) 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 issued or dispensed for Schedule 8 medicines or Schedule 4 drugs of dependence. Drugs of dependence include all opioids, benzodiazepines and anabolic steroids.
- A digital image of a prescription is issued the same way as a regular prescription. You must sign it by hand, or if that is not practical, you may include an image of your digital signature.
- The electronic transmission of the digital image of the signed prescription must be sent to the patient's pharmacy of choice. **Do not email or SMS it to the patient.** You can fax, scan it and email it, or photograph it and email it to a pharmacy.
- Instructions for a repeat supply can be included. Repeats must be supplied and held in the same pharmacy that received and dispensed from the digital image of the prescription. Pharmacies cannot transmit a digital image of a prescription to another pharmacy.
- The hard copy of the signed original paper prescription must be stored securely at your practice for two years. **Do not send the original paper prescription to the pharmacy or give it to the patient.**
- A record that a digital image of the original prescription was transmitted under PHEO #4 must be made.
- An email address for a community pharmacy can be found using your search engine or tools such as www.findapharmacy.com.au. It is advisable to confirm details before sending an email or fax.

Need more information

Visit the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons>

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