



1 April 2020

Ms Angela Fitzhenry
Manager, Legislation
Medicines and Technology Programs
Department for Health and Wellbeing
Delivered via email: Health.MTPP@sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Fitzhenry,

RE: Electronic Prescribing in South Australia

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia is the national professional organisation for more than 5,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia's health system. SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core business of pharmacists, especially in hospitals.

SHPA South Australian Branch supports the plans to amend South Australia's Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011 (the Poisons Regulations) to enable prescriptions to be provided in an approved electronic form. Our Branch supports SA Health's plan to adopt electronic prescribing in South Australia, consistent with the Commonwealth framework and National Digital Health Strategy. When integrated fully with hospital systems and workflows, electronic prescriptions can improve the safety and quality of care provided in hospitals with respect to the prescribing and dispensing of medicines.

Our Branch is aware that SA Health is continuing to roll out Sunrise Electronic Medical Record and Patient Administration System across South Australian public hospitals. We encourage SA Health to ensure Sunrise EMR and PAS is compatible with electronic prescribing initiatives to allow for more robust and efficient health systems workflows.

The Branch believes that there are a few considerations regarding hospital pharmacy workflows that need to be recognised prior to implementation to ensure success and hospital clinician engagement. For example, a significant number of discharge and outpatient prescriptions generated in hospitals are sent to community pharmacies for dispensing, as such any electronic prescription workflows will necessitate some degree of compatibility between software used in both acute and primary care settings.

SHPA is currently planning a workshop with the ADHA on electronic prescribing to assist their understanding and awareness of hospital workflows ahead of implementation.

We hope you find this feedback valuable. If you have any queries or would like to discuss our concerns further, please do not hesitate to contact Johanna de Wever, General Manager, Advocacy and Leadership on jdeweever@shpa.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Calder', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Annabel Calder
SHPA South Australian Branch Chair



The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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