

## NEWSLETTER – May 2023

### Pharmacy Control (Fees) Regulations 2023 – Stakeholder Consultation

All pharmacy owners should have received a copy of the new draft Pharmacy Control (Fees) Regulations 2023 and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) which have been released for stakeholder consultation prior to implementation. These Regulations set the fees payable by pharmacy business owners to the Authority, comprising the entire operating revenue for the regulation of pharmacy business premises and pharmacy ownership in Tasmania. A copy of both documents can be found on the Department of Health [website](#).

In recognition of the fact that the increases to fees prescribed under the draft regulations are significant, the new fee structure will be phased in over two years, with the first instalment of the new fee structure scheduled to commence with the 2023-24 renewal cycle. Please take the time to review the information contained in these documents and provide any feedback to [legalservices@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:legalservices@health.tas.gov.au) by the deadline of 26 May 2023.

### Annual Renewal preparation

The annual renewal of Eligibility Certificate Holders and Premises Registration will commence in early June. To assist your planning please note the following renewal requirements:

- a. Each individual pharmacist will be required to provide an up-to-date copy of their General Registration Certificate from Ahpra [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au))
- b. If you are a director/shareholder of a Body Corporate a copy, not older than 3 months of the Company Extract from ASIC showing up-to-date details of all company office holders and shareholders <https://connectonline.asic.gov.au>
- c. Should you, or the company hold shares in trust and or unit holdings a separate declaration form will be sent for completion.  
A copy of the executed trust deed with any deed of variation/s is required to accompany this document.
- d. Once completed, email the application form, including all documentation together with a copy of payment remittance to [renewals@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au](mailto:renewals@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au) by **01 July 2023**.

### Fridge matters

All pharmacists are reminded that the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – ‘Strive for 5’ and QC 2020 require that the recording of twice daily manual refrigerator checks **must** include:

- a. Minimum temperature
- b. Maximum temperature
- c. Current temperature
- d. Initials of the operator
- e. Records of actions taken where temperature breaches are identified.

The Authority strongly recommends the use of the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – ‘Strive for 5’ vaccine fridge temperature chart available from <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5-vaccine-fridge-temperature-chart-poster>.

Manual checks **are** required regardless of the presence of a datalogger.

The Authority also strongly recommends the use of a datalogger that can send real time alerts in the event of temperature breaches of power failures, and reminds all pharmacists of the requirement to download and review the data from dataloggers at least once weekly.

Fridges must be serviced annually.





## Professional Officer

The Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority (Authority) welcomes Jane Stephens to the newly created role of Professional Officer. Jane has a broad range of experience across several areas of pharmacy practice, most notably in regulation and compliance during her time with Pharmaceutical Services Branch (PSB). Jane will be responsible for all aspects of the Authority's activities which require the professional knowledge of a pharmacist.

## Calibration of scales and weights

It is a requirement that all scales and weights are professionally calibrated at least every two years. Scales must be calibrated to their lowest weighable mass (0.01g). The Authority has recently received certificates showing the lowest calibrated mass as 50g. This is clearly not adequate for the precision and accuracy required in a pharmacy setting.

## Guideline or Standard Changes

From time to time, Guidelines and Standards are changed or evolve to accommodate the ever-changing environment we work within. This may mean that something that was previously approved, may now not meet the required standard for contemporary practice. Owners are reminded to remain vigilant with changes to Guidelines and ensure that new proposals/applications comply with current Guidelines; prior approval is no guarantee of future approval.

## Privacy

You are reminded of your obligations under the *Privacy Act* 1988 with respect to sharing or making available sensitive and personal patient information. Patient information may only be shared if it is in the best interests of the patient to do so. Any evidence or reports requested by the Authority **must** be de-identified.

## Since the last newsletter we have:

Appointed three new inspectors to undertake inspection on behalf of the Authority.  
Conducted 21 inspections of pharmacy business premises.

