

15 December 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022015309

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 22 October 2022 for:

“The requirement that “stimulant medication to treat an ADHD patient, has to be authorised only by a registered psychiatrist or paediatrician , in order to obtain a relevant CHEM number and is required to be renewed every two years, the renewal to be authorised by a psychiatrist or a paediatrician”; is this requirement to be found in the 1974 NZ drugs act, or any addendums to the drug act, which means that this requirement has been examined by a relevant parliamentary select committee?” Please advise if this requirement is stated in any drug act and if so, where, or if this requirement is a Medsafe/Pharmac policy statement. ?

Ministerial approval, which is delegated to Medsafe, is required to prescribe methylphenidate and dexamphetamine in accordance with regulation 22 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977. Both medicines are Class B controlled drugs used in the treatment of ADHD.

Ministerial approvals have been issued for both medicines. The Gazette notice for methylphenidate is available at: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2015-go760>. The Gazette notice for dexamphetamine is available at: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2015-go761>. The approval requires treatment for ADHD to be initiated by a medical practitioner with a vocational scope of practice of paediatrics or psychiatry, registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Ongoing prescribing may be made by, for example, medical practitioners registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand, or nurse practitioners registered with the Nursing Council of New Zealand practicing within their area of practice, when acting on the written recommendation of one of the vocational medical practitioners described above.

CHEM numbers are part of the Special Authority Process and are administered by Pharmac. The CHEM numbers relate to the funding of these medicines. For more information about this, please contact Pharmac by email at: enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe