



SafeScript NSW new approval management functionality

What is the approval management functionality?

The new approval management functionality is a significant enhancement to SafeScript NSW. It supports the Ministry of Health's commitment to provide an easy-to-use system that drives greater efficiency, transparency and regulation of certain high-risk medicines, helping to improve patient safety.

The functionality will be available within the SafeScript NSW online portal for health practitioners to use.

As part of this launch in November 2023, applications for approval to prescribe medicines under the NSW Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) and psychostimulants (dexamfetamine, lisdexamfetamine and methylphenidate) will be available online.

What does this mean for me?

Prescribers (medical, nurse and dental practitioners) will be able to:

- apply online to prescribe or supply certain Schedule 8 medicines
- view patient approval (previously referred to as an authority) history
- have visibility of their active approvals, including those where a prescriber serves as a locum
- see all approvals within linked organisations
- monitor application progress and be granted approvals in real time (in some cases).

Pharmacists will be able to view a summary of OTP approval information in the system, including:

- the approval number (previously referred to as authority)
- start and end dates
- OTP dosing points
- prescriber, patient, drug and maximum dose information.

NSW Health employees who are involved in the OTP process will be able to access the system through an invitation from a prescriber. Once accepted, NSW Health employees will be able to see:

- approval number (previously referred to as authority)
- start and end dates
- OTP dosing points
- prescriber, patient, drug as well as starting and maximum dose information.

How will SafeScript NSW benefit me?

The enhanced SafeScript NSW functionality offers:

- Improved efficiency:
 - known information is pre-populated into the online application form, reducing time spent completing applications
 - provides clear prompts to support application completion and minimise the chances of errors
 - in some cases, approvals may be granted in real time
 - allows prescribers to monitor the status of all their applications in real-time, minimising the need to contact the Ministry of Health's Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit to enquire about applications.
- Greater compliance and support:
 - provides increased support to comply with legislative obligations by guiding the prescriber on whether an approval is required
 - providing prescribers with an overview of applications submitted and approval history when needed.

For approval holders - what happens to my current approvals?

Active approvals will be visible in the SafeScript NSW portal and will be available to refer to for 2 years after they are cancelled or exited.

Prescribers will be able to see what applications have been submitted and what status they're in. Additionally, they will see:

- the clinic/organisation and patient name,
- medicine as well as maximum and starting dose
- start and end dates
- OTP dosing point information (saved within the patient profile).

If you have recently submitted an application to the Ministry of Health's Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit, you do not need to reapply online. Please note that your application may take a few days to appear in SafeScript NSW.

Change to terminology

To streamline the process for prescribing and supplying certain high-risk medicines, and to distinguish it from the Commonwealth PBS authorities, NSW Health is updating terminology currently used from 'authorities' to 'approvals'. In SafeScript NSW, an approval is a reference to an authority issued under the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*. This transition will occur in alignment with the launch of SafeScript NSW's new functionality.

For more information

For enquiries about the approval management functionality, please send an email to safescript@health.nsw.gov.au.