

Medications being addressed in this submission

N02AA01	05391R	morphine sulfate 200 mg tablet: modified release, 28 tablets
	05392T	morphine sulfate 200 mg tablet: modified release, 28 tablets
	05393W	morphine sulfate 10 mg tablet, 20
	05394X	morphine sulfate 20 mg tablet, 20
	05395Y	morphine sulfate 10 mg tablet, 20
	05396B	morphine sulfate 20 mg tablet, 20
N02AB03	05401G	FENTANYL Lozenge 200 micrograms (as citrate), 9
	05402H	FENTANYL Lozenge 400 micrograms (as citrate), 9
	05403J	FENTANYL Lozenge 600 micrograms (as citrate), 9
	05404K	FENTANYL Lozenge 800 micrograms (as citrate), 9
	05405L	FENTANYL Lozenge 1200 micrograms (as citrate), 9
	05406M	FENTANYL Lozenge 1600 micrograms (as citrate), 9
	05407N	FENTANYL Lozenge 200 micrograms (as citrate), 30
	05408P	FENTANYL Lozenge 400 micrograms (as citrate), 30
	05409Q	FENTANYL Lozenge 600 micrograms (as citrate), 30
	05410R	FENTANYL Lozenge 800 micrograms (as citrate), 30
	05411T	FENTANYL Lozenge 1200 micrograms (as citrate), 30
	05412W	FENTANYL Lozenge 1600 micrograms (as citrate), 30
N02AC	05399E	methadone hydrochloride 5 mg/mL oral liquid, 200 mL
	05400F	methadone hydrochloride 5 mg/mL oral liquid, 200 mL
N03AE01	05337X	clonazepam 500 microgram tablet, 100
	05338Y	clonazepam 2 mg tablet, 100
	05339B	clonazepam 2.5 mg/mL oral liquid, 10 mL
	05340C	clonazepam 500 microgram tablet, 100
	05341D	clonazepam 2 mg tablet, 100
	05342E	clonazepam 2.5 mg/mL oral liquid, 10 mL
N05BA01	05355W	diazepam 2 mg tablet, 50
	05356X	diazepam 5 mg tablet, 50
	05357Y	diazepam 2 mg tablet, 50
	05358B	diazepam 5 mg tablet, 50
N05BA04	05371Q	oxazepam 15 mg tablet, 25
	05372R	oxazepam 30 mg tablet, 25
	05373T	oxazepam 15 mg tablet, 25
	05374W	oxazepam 30 mg tablet, 25
N05CD02	05359C	nitrazepam 5 mg tablet, 25
	05360D	nitrazepam 5 mg tablet, 25
N05CD07	05375X	temazepam 10 mg tablet, 25
	05376Y	temazepam 10 mg tablet, 25
N05BA04	03134Y	oxazepam 15 mg tablet, 25
	03135B	oxazepam 30 mg tablet, 25
N05BA12	02130D	alprazolam 250 microgram tablet, 50
	02131E	alprazolam 500 microgram tablet, 50
	02132F	alprazolam 1 mg tablet, 50

	08118G	alprazolam 2 mg tablet, 50
N05CD02	02732T	nitrazepam 5 mg tablet, 25
N05CD07	02088X	temazepam 10 mg tablet, 25
	05375X	temazepam 10 mg tablet, 25
	05376Y	temazepam 10 mg tablet, 25

The agents being addressed in this submission all have abuse and misuse potential. Currently the authority system allows for the government officer processing the authority application to review the patient history and advise the requesting medical practitioner of issues that the prescriber may not be aware of. The issues relate to

- early supply on a regular basis
- increasing dose
- patient seeing multiple prescribers

This issue is increasingly relevant as patients are seeing multiple prescribers in one practice, medical practitioners are often time poor and many patients now go to more than one medical clinic depending on availability of doctors.

The increasing rate of accidental death in Australia due to misadventure with opioids and benzodiazepines make it imperative that these medications remain on the authority system where there is some degree of regulation and monitoring. The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs is at the highest level among Australians (aged 14 years or over) since 1998¹. 4.7% of Australians misused pharmaceutical drugs in 2013 compared to 3.7% in 2007¹. More people are dying from drug overdoses including from pharmaceuticals than are dying on the roads every year².

Now is not the time to remove these medications from the authority system.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2014). *2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: key findings*. Canberra: AIHW.

Fact sheet: Overdose: Worse than the road toll [PDF:51KB]. (n.d.). Carlton: Overdose Awareness Day.