

# **TASMANIAN PHARMACY AUTHORITY**

## **INSPECTION POLICY**

ABN 34 562 572 269

### **Background**

Section 59(1) of the *Pharmacy Control Act 2001* (Act) makes provision for the Authority to perform inspections on pharmacy business premises. That section states:

#### **59. Authorisation and powers of inspectors**

- (1) If –
- (a) the Authority reasonably suspects that a person may be operating a pharmacy business in breach of this Act; or
  - (b) the Authority reasonably suspects that a person may be operating a pharmacy business from premises that may not be suitable for registration having regard to the matters set out in [section 71E](#) ; or
  - (c) the Authority receives a referral of a complaint from the Health Complaints Commissioner; or
  - (d) the Authority receives a request from a registration Board to inspect any premises; or
  - (e) premises sought to be registered are being made ready to be used or have been made ready to use for the purposes of a pharmacy business; or
  - (f) premises registered as pharmacy business premises have been, or are being, renovated or altered; or
  - (g) the Authority wishes to carry out a random inspection on registered pharmacy business premises for the purposes of auditing those premises against the matters set out in [section 71E](#) –
- the Authority may, in writing, authorise a person to act as an inspector.

With regard to inspections, the Authority has resolved the following:

### **Inspectors**

Inspectors must be experienced pharmacists holding general registration with Ahpra and must not hold an interest in any pharmacy business.

### **Inspector Conflict of Interest**

The Authority acknowledge that Inspectors may have external pharmacist employment or business which may conflict with their inspection responsibilities. Inspectors must avoid any possible perception of bias or inducement, thus an Inspector must not conduct an inspection on a pharmacy business where such a conflict exists. In the event that an inspection is assigned which creates such a conflict, the inspector must inform the Authority immediately and the inspection will be reassigned to another inspector.

Where an Inspector conducts a locum service or other business venture, they must refrain from approaching the owner of a pharmacy to engage their services during the time from the assignation of an inspection on that pharmacy to the closure of the inspection by the Authority.

### **Inspections**

Inspections may be conducted with or without notice. The circumstances in which inspections are conducted with or without notice are:

#### **Inspections with notice**

Cyclical inspection – every three years unless earlier inspection is triggered by other events

Completion of approved alterations – within one month of receipt of advice of completion

New or relocating pharmacy – within one week of opening

Change of ownership (including changes to pharmacist membership of body corporates or approved trusts) - within three months of settlement unless the Authority deems it unnecessary

Approval of a vaccination space – within one month of commencement of vaccination services

Adverse event as defined by section 71KF of the Act – within one week of reopening

Where an inspection is conducted with notice, it is reasonable for the Owner to negotiate an alternate time within one week of

that time proposed by the Inspector to allow the Owner to attend the inspection. Where a non-cyclical inspection is conducted, the next cyclical inspection will fall due three years after the date of that inspection.

**Inspections without notice**

Complaint regarding the pharmacy

Adverse outcome of a previous inspection

Referral from a registering body, Health Complaints Commission or other relevant body