



NEWSLETTER – December 2024

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Installation of an agency or third-party business in a pharmacy

The installation of a third-party agency or business falls under the definition of alteration of pharmacy premises in the *Pharmacy Control Act 2001, s71KA*.

An agency is considered a business operated by the pharmacy on behalf of a third party.

A third-party business is considered an external business that operates on the pharmacy premises.

For example: An Australia Post agency operating in a pharmacy is an agency if the staff employed to operate it are employees of the pharmacy and a third-party business if the staff are employed by the lottery agency.

The TPA Guidelines, website and relevant forms have been updated to now include the requirement by pharmacy owners to inform the TPA of the intention to install an agency or third-party business in a pharmacy premise in an existing or new pharmacy.

Alcohol in pharmacy premises

Whilst this time of year is a time to celebrate, please be reminded alcohol must not be served or consumed on pharmacy premises at any time, including after the pharmacy is closed for business.

Pets in pharmacy premises

In accordance with TPA Guidelines v6.2 Section 18 and the *Dog Control Act 2000* part 2,28(1), animals are not permitted in pharmacy premises, except for guide dogs approved under the *Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967*, and accredited assistance dogs as defined by the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*.

Sharps container safety

The Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare require that sharps containers in vaccination spaces must be stored at least 1.3m above the floor when not in use. This is an important safety measure to prevent inadvertent access by children.

Sharps containers can be moved down to a desk or table whilst vaccinations are being conducted, as long as they are adequately supervised in the presence of children.

Complex compounding self inspection form

There is a new self inspection form available for complex compounding facilities. This form is designed to accompany the standard self inspection form. Owners of pharmacies providing complex compounding services are encouraged to conduct an audit of your complex compounding practice in 2025.

Transition progress

The transition of the TPA's administrative functions to the Department of Health is continuing to progress. Updates will be communicated as they become available.

Christmas closure

The TPA will be closed for routine business between 21 December 2024 – 5 January 2025. Any urgent matters arising during this period should be forwarded to registrar@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au

The Chair, Members and team wish all pharmacy owners and their staff a happy and safe holiday season and hope that 2025 is a prosperous year for you all.