

Drugs of Dependence Prescribing Policy – Patient Information

At Rotem Medical Family Practice, we are committed to prescribing medicines safely, responsibly and in the best interests of our patients. This includes **Schedule 8 (S8) medicines** and certain **Schedule 4 (S4) medicines** that have the potential for dependence or misuse, including some benzodiazepines.

What you need to know

New Patients

- Rotem Medical Family Practice **does NOT** prescribe Schedule 8 (S8) medicines to new patients.
- If you are a new patient to our practice and are currently taking an S8 medicine prescribed by another doctor, you should not expect that Rotem Medical Family Practice will continue, replace or take over prescribing of that medication. You may be asked to continue management with your existing prescriber or be referred to an appropriate specialist or pain/addiction service.

Existing Patients

- For existing patients, medicines of dependence are prescribed only where the treating GP considers this clinically appropriate and where there is an established and ongoing therapeutic relationship.
- Your GP may recommend a medication review, investigation, specialist assessment or other treatment before prescribing or continuing a medicine of dependence.
- You are responsible for your scripts and medications. Lost scripts will not be replaced nor will repeat scripts be provided early.
- Prescription monitoring systems, including SafeScript NSW, may be reviewed where appropriate.

Our approach

We understand that discussions about medicines of dependence can sometimes be difficult. Our GPs are committed to providing care that is respectful, non-judgemental and focused on your health and wellbeing.

The decision to prescribe, continue or cease a medicine of dependence is ultimately a clinical decision made by your treating GP, based on your individual circumstances, available medical information and relevant professional and legislative requirements.

If specialist care is required, we can assist with an appropriate referral.

Respectful behaviour

We ask all patients to treat our doctors and staff with courtesy and respect. Rotem Medical Family Practice has a zero-tolerance approach to abusive, threatening or violent behaviour.

Where there is a breakdown in the patient-practitioner relationship, or where ongoing treatment is no longer considered clinically appropriate, your GP may recommend alternative arrangements for your care.