

## **Secretary Approval Cardiac Arrest 13 July 2015**

### **Approval under regulation 5(3) Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006**

#### **This approval applies to:**

A nurse(1) or midwife(2) who is registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and is employed (engaged or contracted) at a health service organisation(3) in Victoria.

The approval allows the nurse or midwife to possess and administer the following Schedule 4 poisons:

- adrenaline
- amiodarone.

#### **The approval is granted under the following circumstances:**

The nurse or midwife is providing Advanced Life Support(4) in the event of cardiac arrest. The nurse or midwife has satisfactorily completed a course that conforms to the Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines(5) and is either:

- delivered by the Australian Resuscitation Council(6);
- credentialed by a relevant professional group or college and delivered by a registered training organisation;
- delivered by a higher education provider as part of a postgraduate qualification; or
- delivered by health service staff who have Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support and adult learning qualifications.

The nurse or midwife administers the Schedule 4 poisons in accordance with the current Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines for cardiac arrest, in particular, the ARC Basic Life Support, ARC Adult Cardiorespiratory Arrest and ARC Paediatric Cardiorespiratory Arrest flow charts.

The nurse or midwife administers the Schedule 4 poisons in the course of his/her employment (engaged or contracted) at a Victorian health service organisation.

The nurse or midwife possesses and administers only those Schedule 4 poisons obtained from the Victorian health service organisation at which he/she is employed (including being engaged or contracted).

The nurse or midwife has been assessed, through annual refresher training, to be competent to administer the Schedule 4 poisons for the purpose of providing Advanced Life Support and keeps a record of that assessment.

The refresher training will conform to the Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines and be either:

- delivered by the Australian Resuscitation Council;
- credentialed by a relevant professional group or college and delivered by a registered training organisation;
- delivered by a higher education provider as part of a postgraduate qualification; or
- delivered by health service staff who have Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support and adult learning qualifications.

#### **Definitions**

1. For the purpose of this approval a nurse means a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law

- a. to practise in the nursing and midwifery profession as a nurse (other than as a midwife or as a student); and
- b. in the registered nurses division of that profession.

2. For the purpose of this approval a midwife means a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law—

- a. to practise in the nursing and midwifery profession as a midwife (other than as a nurse or student); and
- b. in the register of midwives kept for that profession.

3. Health service organisation: A separately constituted health service that is responsible for the clinical governance, administration and financial management of a service unit(s) providing health care. A service unit involves a grouping of clinicians and others working in a systematic way to deliver health care to patients and can be in any location or setting, including pharmacies, clinics, outpatient facilities, hospitals, patients' homes, community settings, practices and clinicians' rooms (National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards 2012).

4. Advanced Life Support - the provision of effective airway management, ventilation of the lungs and production of a circulation by means of techniques additional to those of Basic Life Support. These techniques may include, but not be limited to, advanced airway management, tracheal intubation, intravenous access/drug therapy and defibrillation.

Basic Life Support - the preservation of life by the initial establishment of, and/or maintenance of, airway, breathing, circulation and related emergency care, including use of an automated external defibrillator (Australian Resuscitation Council, accessed May 2015).

5. Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines - guidelines produced by the Australian Resuscitation Council to meet its objectives in fostering uniformity and simplicity in resuscitation techniques and terminology. Guidelines are produced after consideration of all available scientific and published material and are only issued after acceptance by all member organisations.

6. Australian Resuscitation Council - a voluntary co-ordinating body which represents all major groups involved in the teaching and practice of resuscitation. The Australian Resuscitation Council is sponsored by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.