



## Where can I get support?

- > **Alcohol and Drug Information Service**  
A confidential telephone counselling service for the public. Phone: 1300 131 340 (any day 8:30am - 10pm)
- > **Alcohol and Drug Foundation**  
Information and advice to those with alcohol and drug problems. Phone: 1300 858 584 (9am - 5pm AEST Monday to Friday)
- > **Family Drug Support Australia**  
A counselling and support service for family members of those affected by alcohol and drugs. Phone: 1300 368 186 (24 hours/7 days a week)
- > **Pain Link Helpline**  
Support for individuals living with pain. Phone: 1300 340 357
- > **Family Drug Helpline**  
Information and support for families and friends of those impacted by drug and alcohol use. Phone: 1300 660 068 (24 hours/7days a week)
- > **DirectLine**  
Telephone support and counselling service for those with alcohol and drug problems. Phone: 1800 888 236 (24 hours/7days a week)

## For more information

ScriptCheckSA  
Drugs of Dependence Unit  
PO Box 6, Rundle Mall  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
Email: [Health.RTPM@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.RTPM@sa.gov.au)  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/scriptchecksa](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/scriptchecksa)

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SA Health



# Information for patients

Reducing the risk of prescription medicine addiction, overdose and death



SA Health

Prescription drugs can provide relief from the pain of an accident or injury, surgery or the symptoms of anxiety, sleep disorders and more. However, some prescription drugs can cause dependence and can be harmful.

Prescription drug dependence, misuse and diversion are major public health concerns both in Australia and internationally. Every day in Australia, people die, present to emergency departments and are hospitalised because of harm from prescribed drugs.

All states and territories in Australia are implementing national Real-Time Prescription Monitoring as part of the solution to help save lives and reduce harm in the community from prescribed drugs.

## What is ScriptCheckSA?

ScriptCheckSA is software that provides doctors and pharmacists involved in your care with information about high-risk drugs that you have been prescribed and supplied to help them make safer decisions about your medicines.



## What medicines are being monitored by ScriptCheckSA?

Prescription drugs that cause the greatest risk of harm to the South Australian community are monitored by ScriptCheckSA and include:

- > all Schedule 8 drugs (e.g. morphine, oxycodone, dexamfetamine)
- > all Schedule 4 drugs that are Benzodiazepines (e.g. diazepam, temazepam)
- > all Schedule 4 drugs that contain Codeine (e.g. codeine with paracetamol, codeine with paracetamol and doxylamine)
- > Gabapentin
- > Pregabalin
- > Quetiapine
- > Tramadol
- > Zolpidem
- > Zopiclone.

## What information does ScriptCheckSA contain?

When a doctor writes a prescription or a pharmacist dispenses a drug, the law requires that specific information is recorded. When it relates to a monitored drug, ScriptCheckSA collects this information automatically. No medical notes, information about other drugs or test results are available in ScriptCheckSA.

## Does ScriptCheckSA stop me from getting my regular medicines?

No. ScriptCheckSA will not tell your doctor or pharmacist what to do, or if a monitored drug should or should not be prescribed or supplied to you. This decision remains with them as they are best placed to determine whether the drugs prescribed remain the safest and best option for your health needs.

## Can I choose NOT to have my prescription information recorded in ScriptCheckSA?

No. ScriptCheckSA is not an opt-out system. The law requires that records from electronic prescribing and dispensing systems for monitored drugs are provided to ScriptCheckSA.

## Who can access my information in ScriptCheckSA?

Doctors, pharmacists and other health professionals who can prescribe drugs (e.g. dentists, nurse practitioners) are allowed by law to access ScriptCheckSA if they are directly involved in your care, but only for the purpose of deciding if it is safe to prescribe or supply a monitored drug to you.

Authorised Officers at the Drugs of Dependence Unit may access your information as part of their regulatory role in ensuring safe supply of medicines in the community. Monitoring helps to identify prescribers who are not complying with SA laws.

Penalties may apply to any person who is found to be inappropriately accessing, sharing or using information obtained from ScriptCheckSA.

## How are my records kept secure?

The South Australian Government is committed to ensuring that patient information is kept secure at all times. ScriptCheckSA is aligned with national data security standards, and data is transmitted through a secure, encrypted internet connection.

## How is my privacy protected?

Your information is protected by the national *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles, and can only be collected, used and disclosed for authorised purposes.