

The classifications of some medicines are changing: what this means for you

From **1 July 2023**, the classifications to the following medicines will apply:

Medicine	New Classification	Prescribing points	Storage	Recording	Dispensing
Fentanyl	Class B1	The new classification does not impact current prescribing practice ¹	In a controlled drugs safe (no change)	Must be recorded in a controlled drugs register (no change)	The new classification does not impact current dispensing practice (no change)
Zopiclone	Class C5	<p>Medical practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 3 months <p>Nurse practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 3 months <p>Veterinarians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 1 month <p>Dentists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 7 days <p>Designated prescriber nurses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 7 days <p>Designated prescriber pharmacists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 3 days <p>Optometrists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cannot be prescribed <p>Midwives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cannot be prescribed <p>Dietitians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cannot be prescribed 	Does not need to be stored in a controlled drugs safe (no change)	Does not need to be recorded in a controlled drugs register (no change)	<p>Maximum of one month supply dispensed each time (or smaller quantity as specified by the prescriber)</p> <p>Prescription will be required for ALL supplies (ie, no emergency supply)²</p>

¹ Fentanyl is exempted from needing ministerial approval for prescribing, supplying and administration under regulation 22(2)(d) in the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977

² Regulation 44(m) of the Medicines Regulations 1984 does not apply to controlled drugs

<p>Zolpidem</p>	<p>Class C5</p>	<p>Medical practitioners - maximum supply is 3 months Nurse practitioners - maximum supply is 3 months Veterinarians - maximum supply is 1 month Dentists - maximum supply is 7 days Designated prescriber pharmacists - maximum supply is 3 days Optometrists - cannot be prescribed Midwives - cannot be prescribed Dietitians - cannot be prescribed</p>	<p>Does not need to be stored in controlled drugs safe (no change)</p>	<p>Does not need to be recorded in a controlled drugs register (no change)</p>	<p>Maximum of one month supply dispensed each time (or smaller quantity as specified by the prescriber)</p> <p>Prescription will be required for ALL supplies (ie, no emergency supply)</p>
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From **1 October 2023**, the classification will change for:

Medicine	New Classification	Prescribing points	Storage	Recording	Dispensing
Tramadol	Class C2	<p>Medical practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 3 months <p>Nurse practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 3 months <p>Veterinarians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 1 month <p>Dentists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 7 days <p>Designated prescriber nurses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 7 days <p>Designated prescriber pharmacists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is 3 days <p>Optometrists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cannot be prescribed <p>Midwives³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximum supply is one month - prescription must be presented to pharmacy within 4 days <p>Dietitians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cannot be prescribed 	Does not need to be stored in controlled drugs safe ⁴ (no change)	Does not need to be recorded in controlled drugs register (no change)	<p>Maximum of one month supply dispensed each time (or smaller quantity as specified by the prescriber)</p> <p>Prescription required for ALL supplies (ie, no emergency supply)</p> <p>Prescriptions from midwives must be presented within 4 days of writing⁵</p>

³ Added to Schedule 1C of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977

⁴ Added to regulation 28(4) of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977

⁵ Regulation 31(5) of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977