

**Circular no 32**

**Regulatory requirements for the prescribing of Retinoids**

Under the *Poisons Regulations 2002* the prescribing of isotretinoin and acitretin is limited to specialist prescribers. These prescribers require a permit issued under Regulation 69 of the *Poisons Regulations 2002*. The prescribing is strictly limited to specialists, in nearly all instances, due to the teratogenic effects of the drugs.

The bulk of this medication is supplied on a PBS authority and a list of approved prescribers was provided to the local PBS office. However, with the advent of national centralised authorities, this system no longer appears to work and some non-authorised prescribers appear to have received approval. This has caused concern with the college of dermatologists and to help overcome this we have given each authorised prescriber a unique authorisation number to place on prescriptions. We have written to the Health Insurance Commission asking that they ensure their operator's request this number before PBS approval is given.

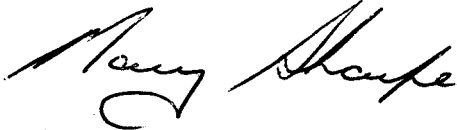
We appreciate the work load of pharmacists. However, to ensure that retinoid prescriptions have been written by an authorised Tasmanian prescriber, we would kindly ask pharmacists to check that prescriptions for these drugs have only been written by these prescribers. There are only currently five prescribers so authorised in Tasmania. The names of these prescribers and their authorisation numbers are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Authorisation number</i>	<i>Expiry date</i>	<i>Status</i>
<b>Dr. Rosemary Watchorn</b>	<b>5A Barrack Street, Hobart</b>	<b>R69/RW04</b>	<b>31/03/07</b>	<b>Specialist dermatologist</b>
<b>Dr. Philip Clarke</b>	<b>46 Elphin Road, Launceston</b>	<b>R69/PC04</b>	<b>31/03/07</b>	<b>G.P. with specific recognition.</b>
<b>Dr. Frances Watkins</b>	<b>141 Hampden Road, Battery Point</b>	<b>R69/FW04</b>	<b>31/03/07</b>	<b>Specialist dermatologist</b>
<b>Dr. A. Jevtic</b>	<b>97 King Street, Sandy Bay</b>	<b>R69/AJ04</b>	<b>31/03/07</b>	<b>Specialist dermatologist</b>
<b>Dr. George Whyte</b>	<b>31 Lincoln Street, Lindisfarne</b>	<b>R69/GW04LL</b>	<b>10/7/2004</b>	<b>Authorised by dermatologist for one patient.</b>

## **Interstate Prescriptions**

To assist with interstate prescriptions we have authorised members of the Australasian College of Dermatologists as a class of persons authorised to prescribe these drugs. Any interstate prescription can only be dispensed if you can satisfy yourself that the prescription has been written by a specialist dermatologist.

Thanking you for your assistance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Sharpe', written in a cursive style.

Mary Sharpe  
**Deputy Chief Pharmacist**  
**25 August 2004**