



Changes to vaping in Australia from 1 October 2024

Information for prescribers

The laws on vaping in Australia have changed to protect our community from the harms of vaping and nicotine dependence.

Main points:

- Vapes and vaping products, regardless of whether they contain nicotine or not, can only be sold in pharmacies. Non-pharmacy retailers that sell any type of vape are doing so illegally.
- From 1 October 2024, patients 18 years and older don't need a prescription to purchase vapes that have a nicotine concentration of 20 mg/mL or less, where state and territory laws allow. However, they must talk with the pharmacist before purchasing.
- Patients under 18 years need a prescription to purchase vapes, where state and territory laws allow, to ensure they get appropriate medical advice and supervision.
- There are lots of tools and support to help Australians quit vaping for good.

Vapes can only be sold at pharmacies

All vapes and vaping products must be sold in a pharmacy for the purpose of helping people to quit smoking or manage nicotine dependence.

It is illegal for any other retailer—including tobacconists, vape shops and convenience stores—to sell any type of vape or vaping product.

Purchasing nicotine vapes with a prescription

Patients under 18 years need a prescription to purchase vapes, where state and territory laws allow, to ensure they get appropriate medical advice and supervision.

This gives them an opportunity to discuss their vaping with a health professional and get the best information about health harms and quitting options.

Please check the [laws in your state or territory](#) about the prescription and supply of vapes and vaping goods to people under the age of 18 years.

Patients who require vapes with a concentration of nicotine higher than 20 mg/mL will need a prescription, regardless of their age.

Who can prescribe vapes? A medical practitioner or nurse practitioner registered in Australia.

Purchasing nicotine vapes without a prescription

From 1 October 2024, patients 18 years and over can buy vapes with a nicotine concentration of 20 mg/mL or less from participating pharmacies without a prescription, where state and territory laws allow, but they must talk with the pharmacist before purchasing.

Patients need to discuss the product and dosage, other options to quit smoking and/or manage nicotine dependence, provide identification (for proof of age purposes only), and can only purchase one month's supply over the course of one month.

Vapes sold in pharmacies are unapproved goods

All vapes sold in a pharmacy are required to meet certain standards and must be notified to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as meeting those standards. The TGA maintains an up-to-date list of 'notified vapes' on its website.

There are currently no vapes for smoking cessation or the management of nicotine dependence included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. This means that all vapes currently sold are 'unregistered' or 'unapproved' goods.

Importers of vapes must seek permission from the Office of Drug Control and all products sold in Australia must meet product standards set by the TGA. The product standards include limits on nicotine concentrations, dispensing quantities, packaging, and flavours, which are restricted to mint, menthol and tobacco. These product standards will be further strengthened in 2025.

Patients can legally purchase vapes in a pharmacy, where state and territory laws allow. The long-term health risks of vapes are still unclear.

Vapes are not a 'first line' treatment to quit smoking as there is limited evidence about their effectiveness and safety.

More information

The TGA website provides information on:

- [Prescribing vapes](#)
- [Standards for therapeutic vapes](#)
- [The list of vapes](#) (including substances, accessories and devices) that have been notified as complying with applicable standards for supply in Australia.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has developed provisional guidance on prescribing vapes (including for people under the age of 18) and support to help people quit vaping, which is available here: [Supporting smoking cessation: A guide for health professionals](#).

Cannabis vapes are subject to separate strict regulations. More information is available on the Therapeutic Goods Administration [medicinal cannabis hub](#).