



Misuse of Drugs (Controlled Drugs—Designated Prescriber Nurses and Designated Prescriber Pharmacists) Amendment Regulations 2026

Cindy Kiro, Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this 23rd day of February 2026

Present:

Her Excellency the Governor-General in Council

These regulations are made under section 37 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council.

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Regulations

1 Title

These regulations are the Misuse of Drugs (Controlled Drugs—Designated Prescriber Nurses and Designated Prescriber Pharmacists) Amendment Regulations 2026.

2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on 26 March 2026.

3 Principal regulations

These regulations amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977.

4 Schedule 1A amended

(1) In Schedule 1A, insert in their appropriate alphabetical order:

Clobazam

Ketamine

Midazolam

Oxycodone

Phentermine

(2) In Schedule 1A, item relating to Buprenorphine, delete “, transdermal only”.

(3) In Schedule 1A, revoke the item relating to Buprenorphine with naloxone.

(4) In Schedule 1A, item relating to Clonazepam, delete “, for anxiety and panic disorder only”.

(5) In Schedule 1A, item relating to Diazepam, delete “, oral only”.

(6) In Schedule 1A, item relating to Fentanyl, delete “, transdermal only”.

(7) In Schedule 1A, item relating to Methadone, delete “, oral only”.

5 Schedule 1B amended

In Schedule 1B, insert in its appropriate numerical order:

10A Ketamine

Rachel Hayward,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations, which come into force on 26 March 2026, amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 to—

- add clobazam, ketamine, midazolam, oxycodone, and phentermine to the list of controlled drugs that designated prescriber nurses may prescribe in certain circumstances in Schedule 1A:

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Prescriber Nurses and Designated Prescriber
Pharmacists) Amendment Regulations 2026**

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Explanatory note

- remove buprenorphine with naloxone from the list of controlled drugs that designated prescriber nurses may prescribe in certain circumstances in Schedule 1A, as well as removing restrictions on certain controlled drugs on that list:
- add ketamine to the list of controlled drugs that designated prescriber pharmacists may prescribe in Schedule 1B.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 26 February 2026.

These regulations are administered by the Ministry of Health.