

Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) plans for the ACT

- Australia has a growing national problem with the misuse and abuse of pharmaceuticals. The number of harms including deaths from prescription medicines has increased and is now higher than illegal drugs.
- The ACT Government implemented ACT DAPIS Online Remote Access (DORA) in March 2019 to reduce the growing harms associated with pharmaceutical abuse and misuse.
- The ACT Government is now working on a project to replace DORA in 2021 with the national Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) system. The national system will provide enhanced features and functionality for health practitioners over ACT DORA.
- The national RTPM system will enable both health practitioners and regulators from across Australia to access a prescription monitoring system via a common platform.
- The system has been designed with a simple self- service registration portal to make it easier for practitioners to gain access to the system.
- The national RTPM will be fully integrated with health practitioner software and will provide more user-friendly features with improved information, including real time alerts and notifications back to practitioners where patients may be exhibiting signs of drug-seeking behaviour such as 'doctor shopping'.
- The national RTPM system will include information about controlled (schedule 8) medicines and some prescription only (schedule 4) medicines that are associated with abuse or misuse (eg. Benzodiazepines). Information will include all monitored medicines dispensed in the ACT as well as those that have been dispensed in any other state or territory for ACT patients.
- In the later stages of the project, prescribers will be able to apply for Chief Health Officer approval via the national RTPM system.
- Name and branding for the ACT's version of the national RTPM system will be determined in 2021 prior to system release.
- For more information about the ACT Government's introduction of national RTPM, please visit www.health.act.gov.au/pss or contact the Health Protection Service 02 5124 9208.