

# HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY

## REGULATORY GUIDANCE

27 AUGUST 2024

### GUIDANCE NOTES ON SUPPLY OF REGISTERED GENERAL SALE LIST (GSL) THERAPEUTIC PRODUCTS AND OTHER MEDICINAL PRODUCTS VIA VENDING MACHINES



## **PREFACE**

*This document is intended to provide general guidance. Although we have tried to ensure that the information contained here is accurate, we do not, however, warrant its accuracy or completeness. The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) accepts no liability for any errors or omissions in this document, or for any action / decision taken or not taken as a result of using this document. If you need specific legal or professional advice, you should consult your own legal or other relevant professional advisers.*

*In the event of any contradiction between the contents of this document and any written law, the latter should take precedence.*

## **REVISION HISTORY**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Medicines in Singapore are classified as Prescription Only medicines (POM), Pharmacy Only (P) medicines or General Sale List medicines (GSL).

POMs can only be supplied by a qualified doctor or by a qualified pharmacist according to a prescription by a doctor. P medicines can be supplied by or under the supervision of a pharmacist at or from a licensed retail pharmacy. GSL include GSL therapeutic products and other medicinal products such as Chinese proprietary medicines, traditional medicines, homoeopathic medicines, quasi-medicinal product, medicated oil and balms, which can be purchased off the shelves and are deemed to be sufficiently safe to be used by public without medical supervision.

## 2 SCOPE OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

This guidance document describes the regulatory requirements for the supply of registered GSL therapeutic products and other medicinal products such as Chinese proprietary medicines, traditional medicines, homoeopathic medicines, quasi-medicinal products, medicated oil and balms via vending machines in Singapore.

## 3 REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The supply of any GSL therapeutic products and other medicinal products such as Chinese proprietary medicines, traditional medicines, homoeopathic medicines, quasi-medicinal products, medicated oil and balms may be carried out via a vending machine, if all the following requirements are satisfied:
- a) GSL therapeutic products and other medicinal products supplied via the vending machine must comply with any requirements for products registration or approval in Singapore, and meet any safety and quality standards set by HSA. They must be obtained from licensed dealers and manufacturers.
  - b) The **company's (e.g., operator's) name and contact information must be prominently displayed on the vending machine.** Additionally, it is recommended that the vending machine be tagged with a unique identification number. This will facilitate the consumers to contact the vending machine operator directly regarding any feedback arising from the purchase of products via the vending machine (e.g., damaged packaging, expired products, etc.)
  - c) The vending machine must be **sufficiently equipped with the following:**
    - i. Temperature monitoring device(s) to ensure that the products are maintained at the manufacturer's recommended storage

- conditions (e.g., store below 25°C, or at any specified storage conditions as stated on the product)
- ii. Adequate security features to prevent unauthorised access and tampering of the products.
- d) For GSL therapeutic products,
- i. the product must be labelled and packaged in accordance with the conditions required by Health Sciences Authority (HSA) upon registration of the Therapeutic Products under the Health Products Act; where applicable.
  - ii. the package size of the product must be the same as the package size specified for registration with Health Sciences Authority (HSA). The total amount of medicine supplied in each package should not exceed a three-month supply.
- e) For all other medicinal products, the total amount of the products in each package does not exceed a three-month supply.
- f) It recommended that operators also consider the following during installation of the vending machine:
- i. Vending machine should be designed and operated to fit its intended purpose, for supply of GSL therapeutic products and medicinal products.
  - ii. The vending machine should be installed in a well-lit, secured and clean locations whereby surrounding activities do not pose any risk of adverse impact to the quality of products stored in the vending machines.

#### **4. REFERENCE**

- 4.1 Health Products (Therapeutic Products) Regulations 2016
- 4.2 HSA Guidance Notes on Retail Supply of Registered Therapeutic Products (Pharmacy Only Medicines and Prescription Only Medicines) via Vending Machines (GUIDE-MQA-035)

**END OF DOCUMENT**

# HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY

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