

Information sheet for families

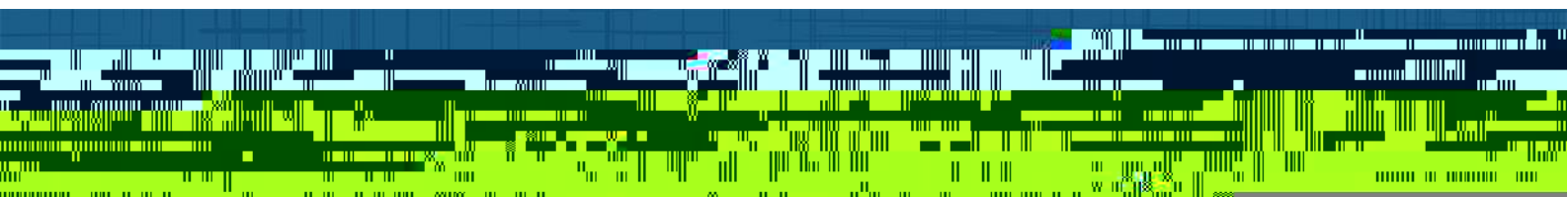


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1 Introduction

The State Government is committed to working towards the reduction and elimination of the use of restrictive practices for people with disability in Western Australia (WA) and has endorsed:

- the National Framework for Reducing and Eliminating the Use of Restrictive Practices in the Disability Services Sector; and
- the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguarding Framework (NDIS Framework).

Under the NDIS Framework, the State Government is responsible for establishing arrangements for the authorisation of regulated restrictive practices (also referred to as restrictive practices for short throughout the Policy) in NDIS services in WA.

The Policy establishes the requirements for authorisation of restrictive practices in relation to people who are receiving disability services funded through the NDIS or by the State Government.

People with disability, their families, carers, and other significant persons who people with disability choose to share their life with, are pivotal in this process.

Please read this information sheet in conjunction with the information sheet for families on the authorisation of restrictive practices document (listed on the [restrictive practices resources](#) page under Providers and Behaviour Support Practitioners).

2 What is chemical restraint?

Chemical restraint is the use of medication or chemical substance for the primary purpose of managing or preventing a person's behaviour, or to enable treatment of, a diagnosed mental disorder, a physical illness or a physical condition.

Implementing Providers and/or NDIS Behaviour Support Practitioners supporting a person with disability, need to work together with the person with disability, their family member/s, guardian, and the prescribing medical practitioner/s to clarify the purpose of medication as well as the conditions under which it should be used. This may involve information gathering with the medical practitioner (see the Chemical restraint information sheet listed on the [restrictive practices resources](#) page under Providers and Behaviour Support Practitioners).

If there is uncertainty about whether a medication is prescribed to address an underlying condition or for behaviour support needs, then, under the Policy, it needs to be interpreted as being a chemical restraint.

This includes consulting with medical practitioners who may be providing care for the person, including the prescription of medication, and gathering comprehensive information about the prescribed medication and use of chemical restraint (see the [Chemical restraint information sheet](#) listed on the [restrictive practices resources](#) page under [Providers and Behaviour Support Practitioners](#)).

See the [Information sheet for families on the authorisation of BSPs](#) document (listed on the [restrictive practices resources](#) page under [BSPs for families](#)) for more information about BSPs.

Quality Assurance Panel

The Implementing Provider is responsible for convening the Quality Assurance Panel that reviews each regulated restrictive practice (see the [Quality Assurance Panels](#) webpage for more details).

In some cases, a Quality Assurance Panel may not feel satisfied with the information available regarding a regulated restrictive practice, including the use of chemical restraint, and the practice under consideration may not be approved or may be approved subject to certain conditions (e.g. approved for one month with actions to address). In these situations, it will be important that further consultation with the person, their family and other stakeholders (e.g. [Quality Assurance Panel](#)) to re-consider the use of the restrictive practice(s) and/or to respond to actions or requests for additional information for consideration at a future Quality Assurance Panel meeting.

5 Contact information

For enquiries about the Policy, please contact the Department of Communities .
authorisation of restrictive practices team:

Email: ARP@communities.wa.gov.au

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