



Voluntary Assisted Dying Substance Disposal Guidance Administering Practitioner

The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* authorises Administering Practitioners to act as disposers of the voluntary assisted dying (VAD) substance(s) which has been supplied for practitioner administration. The substance(s) needs to be safely disposed of in the event that it is no longer required, it has expired, or when there is remaining substance after administration.

The WA VAD Statewide Pharmacy Service has included a drug waste container in each VAD substance kit to assist in the safe and timely disposal of this substance.

For Administering Practitioners working in a hospital: please note that the prescribed VAD substance(s) may be S8 or S4R medication(s). Please ensure local policies regarding disposal of VAD substances are followed. Please contact your hospital pharmacy department for assistance in complying with local policies if necessary.

If further assistance is required to complete the disposal process, please contact:

WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy Service
Phone: (08) 6383 3088
Email: statewidepharmacy@health.wa.gov.au
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm (excluding Public Holidays)

Please note: this document outlines the minimum legislative requirements for disposal of Voluntary Assisted Dying substance, as outlined in the [Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019](#), [Medicines and Poisons Act 2014](#), and [Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016](#) and does not take in to account local policy or procedures.

If disposal is occurring within a Health Service Provider please contact the Pharmacy Department of your hospital or the WA VAD Statewide Pharmacy Service for additional guidance.



Step 1: Disposal of VAD Substance

The VAD substance must be disposed of by the Administering Practitioner as soon as practicable after the patient revokes their practitioner administration decision, the substance expires, or the patient dies and the Administering Practitioner is in possession of VAD substance

The Administering Practitioner must comply with any requirements of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2014* that apply to disposal.

Process required for disposal of the VAD substance:

The VAD substance should be made unidentifiable by removing all labelling and packaging.

The VAD substance can then be placed in the drug waste container provided by the WA VAD Statewide Pharmacy Service at the time of supply.

If the VAD substance is a liquid then it can be placed in the drug waste container provided. If the VAD substance is in powder form then add 30-50mL of water to the powder and shake. This mixture can then be added to the drug waste container.

Please follow the denaturing drug waste container directions to render the substance unusable.

Once the denaturing process is complete, the container will then need to be disposed of by your usual means of medication disposal (for example, in sharps or clinical waste container).

Step 2: Notification Requirements of Disposal

After disposal of the VAD substance the Administering Practitioner must immediately complete the approved **practitioner disposal form** and submit this form within 2 business days after disposing of the VAD substance. This is a legislative requirement.

This form can be accessed and submitted electronically on the VAD- IMS.