



## **PRIVACY STATEMENT**

### **MEDSASSIST – *Informing Medicine Decisions***

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the Guild) is bound by the *Privacy Act 1988* which legislates the way the Guild collects, uses, and stores, provides access to, and discloses personal information in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

The Guild is committed to respecting the privacy of your information, and recognises the need for appropriate protection and management of personal information that you share with us.

Pharmacies are using a real-time recording system called MedsASSIST to record sales of medicines containing codeine and identify consumers who may be using these products outside of therapeutic guidelines. MedsASSIST records information that is relevant for the purposes of supporting patient safety and improve the clinical outcomes for medicines containing codeine.

The system will provide information about previous purchases of a codeine medicine to help determine how often consumers are purchasing products containing codeine. This will assist the pharmacist to determine therapeutic need, identify potential risk of codeine dependence and provide clinical referral pathways if required.

MedsASSIST records the unique identification number of the photographic identification provided by the consumer. The product that is purchased will be recorded next to the consumer's identification number as well as some general clinical information such as the reason the product is being used (e.g. for back pain), the recommended length of use and any follow up actions recommended by the pharmacist (if applicable). Pharmacists also have the option of recording additional information in the form of free text to provide additional information or context to the supply. If a pharmacist elects to process the sale as a safety sale or deny a sale, the reasons for this action will also be recorded next to the identification number. Once the transaction is saved, this information will be linked to that unique identification number.

All pharmacists using MedsASSIST will be able to view all the records linked to a unique identification number. This will allow the pharmacist to determine how often a customer is purchasing a codeine product and assist them in making an appropriate therapeutic assessment in relation to subsequent supply of a codeine medicine.

Information recorded in the system is collected and stored by GuildLink, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The MedsASSIST application and database are located in a managed Australian Hosting Facility. MedsASSIST has its own domain and the Network Protocol publicly available is HTTPS.

Access to the MedsASSIST database is restricted, and is used for technical support and maintenance only. All users of MedsASSIST log in via username and password over SSL, and each transaction requires a validated session token. Information is collected by pharmacists entering transaction records into the system. All data captured in the MedsASSIST database is securely stored at the managed Australian Hosting Facility, adhering to best practice security requirements. Information is retained for 2 years and is then removed from the system.

The information collected may be shared with other pharmacists authorised to use the system and will not be distributed to third parties nor sent overseas.

An individual may formally request access to data recorded in the system at any pharmacy that is using MedsASSIST. Individuals will need to verify their identity in person and will need to outline in writing the specific data they have requested.

This Privacy Statement is supported by the Guild's Privacy Policy which can be accessed at [www.guild.org.au/privacy-policy](http://www.guild.org.au/privacy-policy)

## Further Information

Any other questions or complaints about this Privacy Statement, the MedsASSIST Real Time Recording system or the Guild's Privacy Policy, please contact the Privacy Officer at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

### Privacy Officer

#### The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

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