



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**  
Therapeutic Goods Administration

# SME Assist

## Help to navigate the regulatory maze

**Avi Rebera**

Assistant secretary

Regulatory Engagement and Planning Branch

ARCS conference, Sydney

8 August 2019



**TGA** Health Safety  
Regulation

## Disclaimer

This material is provided to you solely for the purpose of providing a record of what TGA representatives spoke about today.

The papers are not legislative in nature and should not be taken to be statements of any law or policy in any way.

The Australian Government Department of Health (of which the TGA is a part) advises that:

- a) the papers should not be relied upon in any way as representing a comprehensive description of regulatory requirements, and
- b) cannot guarantee, and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for, the accuracy, currency or completeness of the information contained in this paper.



# Today's objectives

## To provide:

- information on TGA's SME Assist and what the service offers
- details on upcoming SME Assist events
- information on where to find more help



## Background

- The 2016 review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation (MMDR) highlighted that small to medium enterprises (SMEs) can find navigating the ‘regulatory maze’ a **challenge**
- We need to:
  - make the regulation process **easier to understand**
  - provide better **support services** for SMEs
- Consultations were held in 2016 with:
  - Industry organisations
  - Government departments



# SME Assist

- Launched 9 June 2017 by the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health
- **Targets** the needs of:
  - SMEs
  - start-ups
  - researchers
  - those unfamiliar with therapeutic goods regulation
- **Informs** therapeutic R&D groups
- **Assists** users to understand their regulatory and legislative obligations

## SME Assist

10 October 2018

Therapeutic goods regulation and legislation can be challenging to navigate.

SME Assist is a dedicated service that TGA offers to help small to medium enterprises (SMEs), researchers, and start-ups with regulation to understand their regulatory and legislative obligations.

Choose the statement below that best matches your experience.



- I haven't interacted with TGA before or I need to know the basics.

### ✉ Subscribe to our mailing list

Subscribe to the [SME Assist email list](#) to stay up to date with the latest SME Assist news including upcoming workshops and events.

### 📖 Guidance articles

Guidance articles to help you understand the basics of regulation, how TGA works, what your obligations are, and where you can go for more help.

- [Basics of therapeutic goods regulation](#)
- [Overview of applying for market authorisation](#)
- [Medical devices regulation: an introduction](#)
- [When to engage with the TGA](#)
- [Useful resources for business](#)

### 🗨 Interactive decision tools

Interactive decision tools ask you a series of questions about your product to help you determine your next steps.

- [Is my product a therapeutic good?](#)
- [What classification is my device?](#)
- [Which clinical trial scheme should I choose?](#)
- [What type of GMP application do I require?](#)

### 📺 Workshops and events

## Since launch, there has been:

- 116,000** visitors to the SME Assist web page
- 424** subscribers to SME Assist emails
- 32,500** uses of interactive decision tools
- 241** email enquiries answered
- 11** 'Meeting Your Obligations' workshops held across Australia
- 643** attendees at workshops
- 2** educational webinars

## We have also worked in partnership with:

- universities (Flinders, Macquarie, QUT), industry organisations (AusBiotech), research organisations (CSIRO, TRI) and the QLD Government



# SME Assist



Search TGA



- Home
- Safety information
- Consumers
- Health professionals
- Industry
- About the TGA
- News room



## SME Assist

Providing targeted support for small to medium businesses, start-ups, researchers and those unfamiliar with therapeutic goods regulation.

[Find out more »](#)



### Consumers

- Personal importation
- 📁 For travellers
- 📺 Buying online

### Health Professionals

- 🗨️ Reporting problems
- 🚫 Unapproved products
- 🔒 Special access scheme

### Industry

- ➔ **SME Assist**
- 📖 Regulation basics
- 📅 Scheduling basics

## ? I want to ...

- [Report a problem](#)
- [Ask a question](#)
- [Login to TGA Business Services](#)
- [Subscribe to TGA updates](#)

## ☆ Popular

- [Access to medicinal cannabis products](#)
- [For travellers & visitors](#)
- [Fees & charges](#)
- [Poisons Standard \(SUSMP\)](#)
- [Employment & job vacancies](#)
- [Regulatory compliance](#)

# Guidance articles

- **Various introductory topics:**
  - basics of regulation
  - market authorisation
  - when to engage with TGA
  - medical devices overview
  - useful resources (signposting to other services)
- **Case studies** (e.g. herbalist, importer and researcher)
- Information is written in plain English and targeted at beginners

## Basics of therapeutic goods regulation

9 June 2017

### Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [Is my product a therapeutic good?](#)
- [The role of the TGA](#)
- [What are some key terms I need to understand](#)
- [Applying for an ARTG entry](#)
- [Cost](#)
- [Other regulators](#)

### Introduction

It's important that Australians have access to quality therapeutic goods for their intended purpose. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), works to protect the health and wellbeing of the community by regulating and monitoring the quality of therapeutic goods distributed here in Australia.

If you're looking to import, supply, export or manufacture a therapeutic good, you need to understand the requirements and obligations in accordance with the [Therapeutic Goods Act 1989](#) and relevant Commonwealth, state and/or territory legislation. Civil and criminal penalties may apply if you don't meet your legal requirements.

This material is an overview of therapeutic goods regulation in Australia. If you'd like more information about any of the topics, please refer to the relevant guidance articles.



## Interactive decision tools

- **Designed to help SMEs and researchers:**
  - better navigate regulatory processes
  - understand the regulation of specific products
- **Current interactive tools include:**
  - Is my product a therapeutic good?
  - What classification is my device?
  - Which clinical trial scheme should I choose?
  - What type of GMP application do I require? (manufacturing medicines)
  - What do I require to have a listed medicine in the ARTG?

### Is my product a therapeutic good?

9 June 2017

This online tool is to help businesses identify whether their product is a therapeutic good, and if so, the type of therapeutic good that it is likely to be.

#### What type of good do I have?

The application process and regulatory requirements depend on the type of the information below to see if you can determine the type of therapeutic good.

- **Medicines** can be any good used to treat or prevent disease, condition or injury. Medicines can range from pain-killers and sunscreens to herbals, vitamins and blood components - some of which may require a medical prescription.
- **Medical devices** include a range of goods such as bandages, pacemakers and in vitro diagnostic medical devices. Goods containing non-viable animal cells also be considered devices.
- **Biologicals** generally comprise, contain or are derived from human cells and are represented for a therapeutic use.
- **Blood and blood components** include whole blood extracted from humans and components manufactured from blood including red cells, white cells, platelets and plasma.
- **'Other' therapeutic goods (OTG)** include things such as some disinfectants.
- **Combination products** incorporate two or more of the above products, such as a medical device and a medicine.

? Based on the above definitions, what do you think your product is?

> A medicine

> A medical device

## Phone and email support

- Provides tailored and efficient assistance to SMEs and researchers
- Enquiries answered directly or forwarded to relevant area

## Subscription service

- Keeps subscribers informed about what's coming up and what's new to SME Assist, including:
  - upcoming workshops, webinars and events
  - new online resources and tools
  - news and information relevant to SMEs

### Subscribe to the SME Assist email list

To subscribe to the SME Assist email list, please complete the form below.

This form will subscribe one email address to the SME Assist email list. If you have more than one email address, please submit separate forms for each address.

**Please note: only fields marked with an asterisk(\*) are required.**

**Email address (one only) \***

**First name \***

**Last name \***

To allow us to provide guidance and educational materials, we would like to know a little more about your business. Please select all the areas you are interested in.

#### Areas of interest

Please select all the areas you are interested in.

- Prescription medicines
- Generic prescription medicines
- Biological medicines
- Complementary medicines
- Over-the-counter medicines
- Biologicals
- Medical devices
- Sunscreens
- Other therapeutic goods
- Research/clinical trials
- Other

## Upcoming events

- **Continued rollout** of 'Meeting Your Obligations' workshops:
  - Perth (October 2019)
  - Melbourne and Adelaide (November 2019)
  - Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne (2020 - dates to be confirmed)
- Addition of **new guidance articles** and decision tools:
  - Overview of ingredients
  - Researcher considerations
- Development of further **webinars** on specific topics
- Increased **social media** presence

Subscribe to SME Assist ([www.tga.gov.au/sme-assist-email-list](http://www.tga.gov.au/sme-assist-email-list)) to be notified about dates for upcoming workshops and information about other TGA events



## Other stakeholder events

### **SME Assist will be providing information sessions at:**

- Bio Connections Australia Conference, Melbourne August 2019
- ATSA Independent Living Expo, Canberra August 2019
- Bridge Program Symposium, Melbourne October 2019
- GMP Forum, Melbourne November 2019



# Some key links

# Separate and distinct products have their own ARTG entry

- Every ARTG entry is unique (**separate and distinct**).
- This ‘uniqueness’ is defined in a certain way depending on what type of therapeutic good you have.
- These definitions can be found in the legislation:

Product type	Where to look	Section
Medicines	<a href="#">① Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</a>	16
Biologicals	<a href="#">① Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990</a>	11A
Medical devices	<a href="#">① Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</a>	41BE

# Australian Regulatory Guidelines

The screenshot shows the Australian Government Department of Health Therapeutic Goods Administration website. The navigation menu includes Home, Safety information, Consumers, Health professionals, Industry, About the TGA, and News room. The 'Industry' menu is expanded, showing options like SME Assist, Regulation basics, Prescription medicines, Over-the-counter medicines, Complementary medicines, Sunscreens, Medical devices & IVDs, Biologicals, Blood and blood components, Other therapeutic goods, Manufacturing therapeutic goods, and Scheduling of medicines & poisons. The 'Prescription medicines' sub-menu is further expanded to show Prescription medicines regulation basics, Standards and guidelines, Forms for prescription medicine sponsors, and Regulatory decisions and notices. The 'SME Assist' section is highlighted, featuring a maze graphic and the text: 'SME Assist Providing targeted support for those unfamiliar with therapeutic goods. Find out more »'. Other sections visible include Consumers (Personal importation, For travellers, Buying online), Health Professionals (Reporting problems, Unapproved products, Special access schemes), Recalls and suspensions, and a 'I want to...' section with links like Report a problem, Ask a question, and Login to TGA Business Services. A 'Popular' section lists items like Access to medicinal cannabis products and Fees & charges.

Industry > Product type > Standards & guidelines

# Australian Regulatory Guidelines

- All types of therapeutic goods have their own **Australian Regulatory Guidelines** to assist applicants and sponsors with the process of applying for market authorisation.
- Note that these are guidance documents only.

① <a href="#"><u>ARGCM</u></a>	for <b>complementary medicines</b>
① <a href="#"><u>ARGOM</u></a>	for <b>over-the-counter medicines</b>
① <a href="#"><u>ARGPM</u></a>	for <b>prescription medicines</b>
① <a href="#"><u>ARGS</u></a>	for <b>sunscreens</b>
① <a href="#"><u>ARGMD</u></a>	for <b>medical devices</b> (currently under review)
① <a href="#"><u>ARGB</u></a>	for <b>biologicals</b>
① <a href="#"><u>ARGATG</u></a>	for <b>advertising therapeutic goods</b> (updated)





# SME Assist

[www.tga.gov.au/sme-assist](http://www.tga.gov.au/sme-assist)

1800 020 653

sme.assist@tga.gov.au



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