

Use of the Personal Importation Scheme is not recommended to **minimise the risk of the patient receiving imported products that do not meet the full TGO 110 requirements**. This is because TGO 110 labelling (ingredient list, nicotine concentration in mg/mL and warning statements), and packaging requirements apply only to [NVPs \(https://www.tga.gov.au/resource/nicotine-vaping-products-and-vaping-devices\)](https://www.tga.gov.au/resource/nicotine-vaping-products-and-vaping-devices) supplied in Australia and not to products imported via the Personal Importation Scheme.

Medical practitioners can choose to take the following steps to minimise the risk of patients using their prescription supplied under the Authorised Prescriber or Special Access Scheme to purchase NVPs through the Personal Importation Scheme:

1. Supply the prescription directly to the patients nominated pharmacy
2. Endorse the prescription “For local supply only” to indicate dispensing within Australia

Note: NVPs are currently under consideration for inclusion in real-time prescription monitoring systems in Australia.

Prescribing

The recommendations depend on whether the patient is new to using NVPs for smoking cessation or is an experienced user of NVPs.

- It is recommended that new users only use devices with closed systems, such as cartridges and pods, to reduce the risk of poisoning and the addition of other potentially toxic substances to the e-liquid. The majority of available closed systems deliver nicotine salt.
- Experienced users may have preferences with regards to type of vaping device and e-liquid, which can be taken into account but are not determinative.

Writing prescriptions

NVP prescriptions should specify the following:

- nicotine concentration (in mg/mL)
- recommended daily dose
- quantity – The EAG recommends limiting the quantity provided per prescription to a maximum 3 months’ supply. Consider aligning the duration of supply with the timing of follow-up.

In addition, since different NVP brands have different nicotine concentrations, prescribers may have to specify product brands to reduce confusion or uncertainty during dispensing. Therefore, prescribers will likely need to be aware of product availability. At the time of writing, the specific products that will be available in Australian pharmacies is not known. Besides consideration of open or closed systems, other issues to consider when choosing a product include certification of adherence to Good Manufacturing Practices and whether the manufacturer provides product liability insurance.