



Information Sheet

Interim Prohibition Orders

The Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) can issue an interim prohibition order (IPO) against a health care worker who has breached the Code of Conduct for certain health care workers (Code of Conduct) in Western Australia or the Indian Ocean Territories.

What is an IPO?

An IPO can temporarily prohibit a health care worker from providing all or part of a health service, or place conditions on the provision of the health service.

IPOs allow for an investigation into the health care worker to be completed without any risk to public health and safety.

IPOs have a 12-week duration, and additional orders can be issued if an investigation takes longer than 12 weeks due to the complexity involved.

When are IPOs issued?

HaDSCO can only issue an IPO if an investigation has started, but it can be issued at any point during the investigation – not necessarily at the start.

An IPO takes effect on the day it is provided to the health care worker, and can be revoked or amended.

It is important to note that an IPO is not a final decision.

Why would an IPO be issued?

An IPO can be issued if:

- there is reasonable belief that the Code of Conduct has been breached, or
- the health care worker has been convicted of a prescribed offence, and
- HaDSCO is satisfied that it is necessary to issue an IPO to avoid serious risk to public health and safety.

What happens when an IPO is issued?

The health care worker must comply with the IPO and can request a review of the decision to make the IPO to the State Administrative Tribunal.

What happens if an IPO is breached?

Failure to comply with an IPO could result in a fine of up to \$30,000.

IPOs issued in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria are recognised in Western Australia. This means that it is an offence to provide health services in Western Australia if an IPO has been issued against the health care worker in one of these States.

The penalty for breaching an interstate IPO is \$30,000 for individual health care workers, and \$60,000 for body corporates.

To view all IPOs issued by HaDSCO, visit our website at hadsco.wa.gov.au.

Need more information?

For more information, contact HaDSCO at mail@hadsco.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 7620. Our office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.