How does a Schedule 6 prescription differ from any other medicine prescription?

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Section 22A of the Medicines and Related Substances Act 101 of 1965 (as amended), in conjunction with Regulations 33 and 34 of the General Regulations to the Act[1], set out the following main differences in requirements between a Schedule 6 prescription and a lower Schedule prescription:

- An original signed prescription is required for a Schedule 6 product. A prescription can be created electronically, but must contain the healthcare practitioner's signature.[1]
- A Schedule 6 prescription may not be repeated, a new script must be issued.[1]
- Only enough medicine for 30 days consecutive treatment may be dispensed on a Schedule 6 prescription.[1]
- In an emergency, verbal instruction may be taken from a prescriber known to the pharmasist to provide enough medicine for 48 hours continuous use.[1] The prescriber is obligated to provide the pharmasist, within 72 hours, with a written prescription confirming the verbal instructions.
- On a Schedule 6 prescription, the quantity to be supplied must be expressed in numbers and in words (where the quantity to be supplied is not indicated in words, telephonic confirmation with the prescriber is acceptable).[2]
- The prescription may only be dispensed if it is presented within 30 days of issue.

Note: It is not a requirement for the strength of the dosage form to be indicated in words.

Dr Name & Surname
MB ChB
Practice Address
Practice Number

Tel:
Cell:
Fax:
Email:

Patient Name & Surname
Address
Identity Number

ICD 10: ……..

Proprietary name 10/5 mg	28
1 tablet BD x 2/52	(twenty eight)
Proprietary name 20 mg	4
1 patch/week x 4/52	(four)

Signed Date

References

1. The Medicines and Related Substances Act 101 of 1965 as amended, Section 22A (6).
2. General Regulations to the Medicines and Related Substances Act 101 of 1965, Regulation 33 (3) and 34.