



Information for Hospital Pharmacies

Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-payment Program Changes

Under the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement, the Australian Government committed to enhancing the Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-Payment program.

From 1 July 2021, the following changes will come into effect:

- A new centralised patient registration database for the program, managed by Services Australia, will go live. Current registration details will be transferred to the new database.
- Any PBS prescriber or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner registered with Medicare as a provider can register eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the program via Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) if they are not already registered.
- PBS prescribers will no longer be legally required to write or electronically print 'CTG' on eligible PBS prescriptions for registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, annotation of a PBS script will help Section 94 Approved Private Hospital pharmacists, when dispensing the medicines, know that the patient is registered for the program.
- General Schedule PBS prescriptions issued by PBS prescribers within public hospitals will now be eligible to be dispensed by any community pharmacy or Section 94 Approved Private Hospital pharmacy.
- New reason codes will be provided for PBS claiming and PBS Online will reject claims, for PBS prescriptions, covered under this program, being dispensed from Section 94 Public Hospital pharmacies.

Please note:

- Section 94 Approved Private Hospital pharmacies can still dispense PBS prescriptions covered under the program.
- Section 94 Public Hospital pharmacies are still not able to dispense PBS prescriptions covered under the program.
- The program will continue to apply to prescriptions for PBS General Schedule medicines only. PBS medicines supplied under a special supply arrangement established under Section 100 of the *National Health Act 1953*, e.g. Highly Specialised Drugs, are not covered under the Program.
- Questions regarding changes to the dispensing software you use will need to be directed to your respective Software Vendor.

