

Medical Specialist Information about the PBS Co-payment Measure

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure

The PBS Co-payment Measure (the PBS measure) commenced on 1 July 2010 and aims to reduce the cost of PBS medicines for Indigenous Australians. The assistance will be in the form of lower or nil patient co-payments for PBS medicines. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients living with, or at risk of, chronic disease will be eligible under these arrangements. The PBS measure is one of 14 measures under the Closing the Gap – Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease Package (the ICDP Package).

Under the PBS measure, non-concession patients will only pay the concessional co-payment for PBS medication while concessional patients can access their medicines for free.

Involvement of medical specialists in the PBS measure

The PBS measure recognises that medical specialists are key members of the multi-disciplinary team necessary for the effective management of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient's chronic disease.

To ensure continuity of a patient's care, medical specialists are eligible to annotate 'CTG' (Closing the Gap) prescriptions for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients under the measure when they are:

- providing services at a non-remote (urban or rural) Indigenous Health Service; or
- treating an eligible patient that has been referred by a GP from a PIP Indigenous Health Incentive practice or participating Indigenous Health Service.

When referring eligible patients, GPs have been asked to indicate to the medical specialist that the patient is eligible to receive more affordable PBS medicines under the measure. For example, a GP may use the following words or similar in their referral:

"John Citizen is eligible for extra assistance with the cost of medicines. To ensure he is able to access this, please annotate the top of any prescriptions with the letters 'CTG' and initial or signature".

Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive

The PIP Indigenous Health Incentive is a related but separate measure under the ICDP Package. Whereas the PBS measure provides benefits directly to patients through access to more affordable PBS medicines, the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive provides financial incentives to support general practices and Indigenous Health Services to provide better health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, including best practice management of chronic disease.

Patient Eligibility

The measure is intended to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of any age, who present with an existing chronic disease or are at risk of chronic disease, or require assistance with their medication, and in the opinion of the prescriber:

- would experience setbacks in the prevention and ongoing management of chronic disease if the person did not take the prescribed medicine; and
- are unlikely to adhere to their medicines regimen without assistance through the measure.

Practice Eligibility

Patients may only be registered for the PBS measure at general practices participating in the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive or at non-remote (urban or rural) Indigenous Health Services. The GP will assess the patient's eligibility for the PBS measure.

Annotation of prescriptions under the measure

When writing prescriptions for an eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient under the measure, Medical Specialists should annotate their PBS prescriptions with 'CTG'. If this is done electronically, the 'CTG' annotation will appear with two numerics and an alpha, eg CTG37H. Otherwise the Medical Specialist may handwrite 'CTG' followed by their initials or signature. The correctly annotated 'CTG' prescription is then presented to the pharmacy by the patient and they will receive their PBS medicines at the reduced rate under the PBS measure. The correctly annotated 'CTG' prescription is proof that the patient is eligible to receive more affordable PBS medicines under the PBS measure. Pharmacists are not asked to decide on the eligibility of a patient or practice for the PBS measure.

Note: Hospital generated prescriptions are excluded from the PBS measure.

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123123 CTG Dr. Holmes

Pharmaceutical Benefits Entitlement Number

SAFETY NET ENTITLEMENT CARD HOLDER CONCESSIONAL OR DEPENDANT, R.P.B.S. BENEFICIARY OR SAFETY NET CONCESSION CARD HOLDER

PATIENT'S NAME MR JOHN C. BROWN

ADDRESS 123 HIGH STREET

DATE 2 / 7 / 10 MAINVILLE POST CODE 9023

PBS R.P.B.S.
(tick appropriate box)

ATORVASTATIN 20mg tabs

1 tab p.o. daily.
Send 30 tabs + 5 repeats

Dr. Holmes

DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE
I certify that I have received this medication and the information relating to any entitlement to free or concessional pharmaceutical benefits is not false or misleading.

Date of Supply Patient's or Agent's Signature

P.B. 35 (10/92) Agent's Address

More Information

For more information about the PBS Co-payment Measure:

Visit: www.health.gov.au/tackling-chronic-disease

Telephone: (02) 6289 2409 between 9.00am to 5.00pm (EST)

Email: pbs-indigenous@health.gov.au

Write to: PBS Co-payment Measure
Department of Health and Ageing
Mail Drop Point 901
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601