

Community pharmacy and HIV Quick Facts

From 1 July 2015, a number of changes are being made to the prescribing and dispensing of HIV ART medicines that will see community pharmacies receiving more prescriptions for these medicines.

Prescribing HIV ART medicines

The same PBS requirements for prescribing HIV ART will apply for eligible prescribers in public hospitals, private hospitals and the community. Currently, different arrangements apply in public and private hospitals.

PBS Authority [Streamlined] prescription requirements will apply from 1 July 2015 for all eligible prescribers. New PBS streamlined Authority codes [four digit numbers] will be available from 1 July 2015 for prescribers to use in circumstances where the intended use of the medicine complies with the PBS restrictions. These codes will be available from www.pbs.gov.au

PBS quantities generally provide up to two months' treatment of HIV ART medicines at recommended doses.

Prescriptions dated 1 July 2015 or later on which the prescriber has not included the relevant Authority [Streamlined] code cannot be dispensed under the PBS.

The changes also remove the requirement for accredited prescribers to be hospital affiliated, and for prescriptions to include a public/private hospital provider number.

Dispensing HIV ART medicines

Valid PBS prescriptions written on and from 1 July 2015, can be dispensed by public hospital pharmacies, private hospital pharmacies, community pharmacies, and dispensing doctors, irrespective of the source of the PBS prescription. Pharmacists claim for these PBS supplies in the normal manner.

Currently, restrictions apply to HIV ART prescriptions written in public hospital settings that prevent them being dispensed by community pharmacies. Prescriptions dated before 1 July 2015 must be dispensed under existing arrangements.

Ordering HIV ART medicines

HIV ART medicines will be available from pharmaceutical wholesalers like other PBS medicines.

Annotating HIV ART prescriptions under CTG

Prescribers cannot annotate HIV ART prescriptions under the CTG PBS arrangements for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Paying a PBS co-payment

Patients have to pay a PBS co-payment for each supply of HIV ART. Pharmacy dispensing software vendors will be given the appropriate information to upgrade their systems prior to 1 July 2015 to include the changed dispensing arrangements and ensure correct co-payments are charged.

Further information

For further information, see www.humanservices.gov.au

Contacts

Support organisations

These support organisations are willing to be contacted by community pharmacists and people living with HIV.

National organisations

ASHM – Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

National body representing clinicians and health workers in the HIV and viral hepatitis fields. Representation, policy development and training, development of national HIV treatment guidelines, annual conference.

T: 02 8204 0700
E: ashm@ashm.org.au
www.ashm.org.au

NAPWHA – National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

National representative body for people living with HIV. HIV treatments advocacy, care and support (Centrelink, DSP, Medicare, PBS), education, international.

T: 02 8568 0300
E: admin@napwha.org.au
www.napwha.org.au

PozHet – Positive Heterosexuals

State-based support network for heterosexuals living with HIV and their families.

T: 1800 812 404
E: pozhet@pozhet.org.au
www.pozhet.org.au

MHAHS – Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service

Bilingual/bicultural support, education information and referral for people from non English speaking backgrounds.

T: 02 9515 1234
E: info@mhahs.org.au
www.mhahs.org.au

AFAO – Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

National peak organisation representing HIV partnership organisations Australia-wide. HIV prevention, health promotion, policy development, international work.

T: 02 9557 9399
www.afao.org.au

The Kirby Institute

National research centre based at University of NSW. HIV epidemiology (statistics, trends, national and state surveillance data), clinical trials in HIV, hepatitis and sexually-transmissible diseases.

T: 02 9385 0900
www.kirby.unsw.edu.au

Centre for Social Research in Health

National research centre based at University of NSW. Social research into HIV, hepatitis and related diseases. Social, sexual and related factors affecting HIV transmission, gay men's sexual practices.

T: 02 9385 6776
E: csr@unsw.edu.au
www.csrh.arts.unsw.edu.au

Australian Capital Territory

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

T: 02 6257 2855
E: support@aidSACTION.org.au
www.aidSACTION.org.au

New South Wales

PositiveLife NSW

T: 02 9206 2177 or 1800 245 677
www.positivelife.org.au

ACON – AIDS Council of NSW

T: 02 9206 2000
E: acon@acon.org.au
www.acon.org.au

NUAA – NSW Users and AIDS Association

T: 02 8354 7300
E: nuaa@nuaa.org.au
www.nuaa.org.au

HALC – HIV/AIDS Legal Centre

T: 02 9206 2060
E: halc@halc.org.au
www.halc.org.au

Queensland

Queensland Positive People

T: 07 3013 5555 or 1800 636 241
www.qpp.net.au

South Australia

Positive Life SA

T: (08) 8293 3700
www.hivsa.org.au

Tasmania

tasCAHRD – Tasmanian Council on AIDS, hepatitis and related diseases

T: 03 6234 1242 or 1800 005 900
www.tascahrd.org.au

Victoria

Positive Living Victoria

T: 03 9863 8733
www.livingpositivevictoria.org.au

Western Australia

WA AIDS Council

Tel: 08 9482 0000
E: waac@waaidcs.com
www.waaidcs.com

WA NAPWHA Representatives

E: wanapwhareps@napwha.org.au

Key hospital and health centres

It is recommended that community pharmacists contact the patient's previous supply hospital pharmacy should they have queries or concerns.

In addition the HIV specialist pharmacists in these organisations are willing to be contacted by community pharmacists to answer enquiries and offer advice.

NEW SOUTH WALES		
Pharmacy or health centre	Location	Telephone
Albion Centre Pharmacy	Surry Hills	02 9332 9650
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	Camperdown	02 9515 8398
St Vincent's Hospital	Darlinghurst	02 8382 2594
Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre	Parramatta	02 9843 3135
VICTORIA		
Pharmacy or health centre	Location	Telephone
Alfred Health	Prahran	03 9076 2061
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre	Carlton	03 9341 6204
Monash Medical Centre	Clayton	03 9594 2360
QUEENSLAND		
Pharmacy or health centre	Location	Telephone
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	Herston	07 3636 8111