



Opioid Dependence Treatment Program reforms

ODT reform

- ▶ From 1 July 2023, ODT medicines will be dispensed in the same way as other community access Section 100 medicines.
- ▶ Great news for patients
- ▶ PBS-eligible patients will pay the PBS co-payment and the amount paid will contribute towards their PBS Safety Net threshold. Additional private dispensing or dosing fees cannot be charged.
- ▶ From 1 July 2023, a community pharmacy program for ODT medicines will be established and this is where pharmacists will claim for the staged supply service or on-site pharmacist administration of injectable buprenorphine

For prescribers

- ▶ Prescriptions for ODT medicines will require a Streamlined Authority (see prescriber fact sheet)
- ▶ Maximum quantities for ODT medicines are equivalent to 28 days of the maximum dose per day outlined in national guidelines – 840ml of methadone, 112 Suboxone 8mg (see Table 2 in prescriber fact sheet for full list).
- ▶ Approval for increased quantities may be sought through Services Australia. 1800 888 333 or apply online.
- ▶ Up to 2 repeats will be able to be prescribed for ODT medicines
- ▶ Some patients require different strengths of buprenorphine-containing sublingual tablets and film to make up their daily dose. A separate PBS prescription is required for each strength.

Transitional arrangement for ODT prescriptions

- ▶ From 1 July 2023, existing paper based ODT prescriptions will be able to be dispensed
- ▶ Administrative systems do not support electronic prescriptions written prior to 1 July 2023. If not paper based, patients will need new, PBS electronic prescriptions from 1 July 2023.
- ▶ Pre-1 July 2023 - if you have a review with your ODT patient, prescribers are encouraged to write prescriptions that meet the new PBS requirements. There are PBS Authority Prescription Number and PBS Authority Approval Number to support this. Please use these numbers if you write a prescription ahead of 1 July 2023. (see fact sheet)
- ▶ Prescribers could temporarily consider using paper prescriptions for the transition period to avoid patients needing a new electronic prescription on 1 July 2023.
- ▶ PBS Prescriptions written for ODT medicines on or after 1 July 2023 can be electronic

Prescribing and administering LAIB in clinics including GP practices and medical centres

- ▶ After July 1st clinics can continue to offer long-acting injectable buprenorphine by obtaining supplies dispensed by PBS approved pharmacies.
- ▶ Transitional arrangements mean that clinics can continue to order long-acting injectable buprenorphine (and other ODT medicines) directly to the clinic as per current arrangements up until 30 November 2023.

In preparing for 1 July 2023 prescribers are encouraged to:

- ▶ Familiarise themselves with the new process for PBS prescribing of ODT medicines
- ▶ Consider patients' prescriptions expiry date or when they are next due for review and book an appointment to provide a new PBS prescription accordingly
- ▶ Consider using paper prescriptions for the transition period
- ▶ For scripts written prior to 1 July 2023 for transition:
 - ▶ for prescriptions with daily doses below the maximum daily dose, annotate with the appropriate Streamlined Authority Code
 - ▶ for prescriptions with daily doses above the maximum daily dose, annotate with the transitional PBS Authority Approval Number 'P2023OD
 - ▶ work with your patient's pharmacist to support the transition to PBS arrangements

For pharmacists

- ▶ Buprenorphine-containing ODT medicines will be prescribed and dispensed on a per-pack basis, like the prescribing of other PBS medicines This means if different strengths are prescribed and supplied, each strength will attract one PBS co-payment and relevant PBS remuneration.
- ▶ PBS approved suppliers cannot charge patients additional private dispensing or dosing fees for the supply of their ODT medicine under the PBS.
- ▶ Patients must have a Medicare card to access PBS subsidised ODT medicines

Transitional arrangements for PBS scripts

- ▶ For the purposes of dispensing and submitting a PBS claim, existing paper-based prescriptions will be taken to be written on 1 July 2023
- ▶ Pharmacists will need to calculate the quantity of medicine and repeats required, sufficient for the number of days remaining on existing ODT prescriptions
- ▶ Annotate a photocopy of the prescription clearly with the words 'Per HSD transition arrangements, for xx days remaining, dispensed a quantity of xx mL/tablets/film/injections (xx mg of methadone) with x repeat', followed by the date and their initials.

Transitional arrangement for ODT prescriptions contd

- ▶ Existing prescriptions will not meet all PBS requirements, so approval numbers have been developed to enable claiming during the transition period (see pharmacist fact sheet).
 - ▶ PBS authority prescription number
 - ▶ PBS Authority Approval Number - If the daily dose is greater than 150 mg of methadone or 32 mg of sublingual buprenorphine (including combination with naloxone). This number cannot be used for buprenorphine injections.

Preparing for 1 July 2023: pharmacists are encouraged to:

- ▶ understand the changes to ODT medicine dispensing arrangements
- ▶ let patients know when they next come in on or after 1 July 2023, they will pay the PBS co-payment and that the amount will count towards their Safety Net
- ▶ let patients know that at their next appointment they will need to get a PBS prescription
- ▶ familiarise themselves with the process for transitioning existing prescriptions
- ▶ identify patients with electronic prescriptions as they will need paper-based prescriptions for the transition period (or a new electronic script from 1 July 2023).
- ▶ start to annotate calculations for remaining quantity and relevant approval numbers on a photocopy and file with the prescription
- ▶ for community pharmacies: read the ODT Community Pharmacy Program Rules on the PPA website and start to talk to patients about gaining written patient consent for the new ODT program. A conversation card is available on the PPA website as a guide

More info

- ▶ [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | Opioid Dependence Treatment Program](#)
- ▶ **Factsheets**
 - [ODT Overview Factsheet \(PDF 209KB\) - \(Word 141KB\)](#)
 - [Information for prescribers \(PDF 322KB\) - \(Word 133KB\)](#)
 - [Information for community and hospital pharmacists \(PDF 209KB\) - \(Word 141KB\)](#)
 - [Information for patients in methadone or buprenorphine programs \(PDF 151KB\) - \(Word 123KB\)](#)
 - [ODT medicine transition arrangements for private clinic and non-PBS approved dosing sites \(PDF 186KB\) - \(Word 133KB\)](#)