



**Subject:** Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Community Pharmacy Program Rules and webpage now available

**Content:**

Dear Pharmacist,

The new ODT Community Pharmacy Program will commence on 1 July 2023, with eligible Service Providers able to begin providing services to eligible patients under the program from this date.

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) and the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) are pleased to advise that the [Program Rules](#) and an [updated webpage](#) are now live to provide interested pharmacies with more information about the rollout.

### **What should I do if my pharmacy already provides ODT services?**

If your pharmacy is already providing ODT services, you can use the checklist below to help you prepare for 1 July 2023.

*1. Understand the changes to dispensing arrangements*

From 1 July 2023, the way in which ODT medicines are currently listed on the PBS Schedule is changing. ODT medicines will become part of the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program (Community Access) arrangements. This means ODT medicines will be dispensed in the same way as other community access Section 100 HSD Program medicines.

Under the Section 100 HSD Program, PBS-eligible patients will pay the PBS co-payment to access their treatment (for up to 28 days' supply per pharmaceutical benefit prescribed) and the amount paid will contribute towards their PBS Safety Net threshold. It's important to note that **additional private dispensing or dosing fees cannot be charged** by section 90 community pharmacies to patients for access to ODT medicines under the PBS.

For more information about the changes to the PBS dispensing arrangements and instructions about how to manage the transition, please check this [ODT PBS website](#) for updates.

*2. Read the Program Rules and program website to confirm eligibility*

The ODT Community Pharmacy [Program Rules](#) provide you with detailed information about the program, how it will operate and the payments available. They also include the eligibility criteria for both community pharmacies and patients.

Please carefully read the Program Rules and ensure that both your pharmacy and each of your patients is eligible.

Community pharmacies are, and will continue to be, required to comply with state and territory ODT program policies, guidelines and regulations.

*3. Make sure you're ready to collect the data you'll need to make your ODT Community Pharmacy Program claims*

The Program Rules include an overview of the data fields community pharmacies will need to collect in order to claim, but for detailed information, please see the temporary data collection forms below.



- [ODT Staged Supply \(Oral/Sublingual\)](#)
- [ODT Injection](#)

These forms identify all the required fields and can be used by you to collate the information you need to collect for each patient claim. You don't have to use these forms, but claiming in the PPA Portal does not commence until 1 August 2023 (and oral/sublingual claims can only be submitted in arrears), so you will need a way to manage this information. **Please note that these forms and/or other data capture spreadsheets cannot be uploaded into the PPA Portal.**

If you use professional services software to manage your ODT dosing, your software vendor may choose to integrate with the PPA Portal, at some time after 1 August 2023.

#### *4. Start to talk to your patients about gaining written consent*

To be able to claim the ODT services you are providing to patients, you need to gain informed patient consent, using the [PPA consent form](#). You may wish to start doing this prior to 1 July 2023. A [conversation card](#) is available as a guide.

It's important to note that the patient consent you may collect as part of your state/territory requirements is not sufficient for this new ODT program. This is because personal information is provided to the PPA and the Department as part of the claim process (e.g. Medicare number, patient name etc) and patients need to agree for this information to be passed on. If a patient does not provide consent, you cannot claim services for this patient under the ODT Community Pharmacy Program.

If you're providing services to a patient that has previously completed a consent form at another pharmacy, you will still need to gain consent from this patient at your pharmacy, in order to submit their data to the PPA.

#### *5. Register and claim*

From 1 August 2023, the ODT Community Pharmacy Program will go live in the PPA Portal and community pharmacies will be able to register and claim. You can find instructions [here](#) (see page 23) for how to register for the new ODT program (**noting you can't do this until 1 August**), or if your pharmacy is new to the PPA Portal, you can use the same guide to work through the steps to set up your pharmacy (these steps can be done prior to 1 August, in preparation for when the program is available).

Closer to 1 August, a Portal User Guide specific for the ODT Community Pharmacy Program will be published on the [program webpage](#) to help you lodge your claims.

We note that the program commences on 1 July 2023, but the Portal is not live until 1 August 2023. Due to the short turnaround time between this program being announced and launching, a staged implementation has been required. We understand that this may be challenging and claiming deadlines have therefore been extended for the initial implementation period.

This means that pharmacies will have longer to manually key their claims into the Portal, or they may be able to wait until professional services software integration is up and running. The PPA is working to provide interested software vendors with integration specifications as soon as possible. This means that if your ODT professional services software vendor chooses to integrate, your pharmacy will be able to lodge its claim via your existing software, however this will not be until some time after 1 August 2023. To date, the following vendors have advised that they plan to integrate their software to allow claims to be submitted to the PPA Portal:



- Modeus (MethDA) – *“Modeus is proactively contacting their customers as updates become available. If you require urgent MethDA software assistance or would like to know more about the Modeus ODT program, contact Modeus [here](#)”*
- StrongRoom AI *“StrongRoom AI customers will be notified about the integration version at the time of its release”.*

### **What should I do if my pharmacy is interested in participating, but doesn't currently provide this service?**

State and territory governments operate individual ODT programs in their respective jurisdictions. The operation of state and territory ODT programs are and will continue to be governed by the respective policies, guidelines and regulations within each of those jurisdictions. You should therefore first engage with your relevant state/territory health department to understand the requirements for participating in opioid dependence treatment programs in your jurisdiction. You can also review the [ODT Community Pharmacy Program webpage](#) to find out more about the program.

Kind Regards,

