

Dear Service Provider,

Program updates

The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) would like to thank pharmacies for their participation in the Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Community Pharmacy Program. During its first year of operation (01/07/2023 – 31/07/2024) the program has received over:

- 2,800 Program Registrations
- 381,900 ODT Staged Supply Claims, and
- 18,400 ODT Injection Claims.

This amounts to over \$61,022,300 paid to eligible community pharmacies for their continued work, which has assisted almost 50,000 patients nation-wide.

In addition to the above, the Department of Health and Aged Care have provided the following advice about dispensing arrangements for ODT medicines.

Changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Opioid Dependence Treatment medicines Authority Required Streamlined codes

On 1 November 2024, there was a change to the restriction details for a subset of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings. This included ODT medicines and as a result the Authority Required Streamlined codes for ODT medicines changed. The new Authority Required Streamlined codes should have been available in your dispensing software systems from 1 November 2024.

The table below lists the Authority Required Streamlined codes before and after the change:

Item code	Drug type	Authority Required Streamline code prior to 1/11/24	Authority Required Streamline code from 1/11/24
13336X	buprenorphine 2 mg sublingual tablet, 7	15355	16009
13337Y	buprenorphine 8 mg sublingual tablet, 7		
13310M	buprenorphine 400 microgram sublingual tablet, 7		
13303E	buprenorphine 160 mg/0.45 mL modified release injection, 0.45 mL syringe	15356	16015
13302D	buprenorphine 128 mg/0.36 mL modified release injection, 0.36 mL syringe		
13298X	buprenorphine 64 mg/0.18 mL modified release injection, 0.18 mL syringe		
13309L	buprenorphine 96 mg/0.27 mL modified release injection, 0.27 mL syringe		

13320C	buprenorphine 100 mg/0.5 mL modified release injection, 0.5 mL syringe	15439	16050
13327K	buprenorphine 300 mg/1.5 mL modified release injection, 1.5 mL syringe		
13297W	buprenorphine 16 mg/0.32 mL modified release injection, 0.32 mL syringe	15385	16051
13296T	buprenorphine 24 mg/0.48 mL modified release injection, 0.48 mL syringe		
13314R	buprenorphine 32 mg/0.64 mL modified release injection, 0.64 mL syringe		
13328L	buprenorphine 8 mg/0.16 mL modified release injection, 0.16 mL syringe		
13322E	buprenorphine 2 mg + naloxone 500 microgram sublingual film, 28	15355	16009
13321D	buprenorphine 8 mg + naloxone 2 mg sublingual film, 28		
13333R	methadone hydrochloride 5 mg/mL oral liquid, 1 L	15358	16083
13334T	methadone hydrochloride 5 mg/mL oral liquid, 200 mL		

Program Rule Reminder

The Department and the PPA have been made aware of a small number of instances where PBS patients have been charged additional dosing fees, on top of the PBS medication patient co-payment. We understand that some pharmacies may have originally misinterpreted the program rules and believed that they were entitled to charge additional dosing fees to patients with a PBS script as:

- The pharmacy did not claim via the PPA (due to issues obtaining patient consent, or because the pharmacy had yet to register for the program at the time of service)
- Some other Department funded programs (e.g. the Dose Administration Aid program) allow for additional patient fees to be charged.

Please note as per the Department's [PBS dispensing requirements](#), pharmacists cannot charge additional out-of-pocket (private) dispensing or dosing fees to patients for PBS supplies of S100 HSD Community Access eligible ODT items. This includes in situations where a patient with a PBS ODT prescription may refuse to sign the PPA consent form to allow a pharmacy to submit their personal details to the PPA in an ODT Community Pharmacy Program claim.

Additional dosing and/or private dispensing fees may only be charged if the patient has agreed to participate in private dispensing arrangements with the pharmacy and has a private (i.e. non-PBS) prescription. This arrangement should be made with the patient and prescriber ahead of time.

Based on the above advice, we are requesting that locations with ODT patients review their records to ensure they have not charged their PBS patients any unapproved fees, since 1 July 2023. Should this review show that your location *has* charged these fees, we ask that you please reach out to the affected patients and discuss the most appropriate method of refunding these fees.

Holiday Period Claiming Reminder

As we are moving into a particularly busy period for the pharmacy sector, the PPA would like to remind all locations participating in the ODT Community Pharmacy Program of the claiming timeframes over the next few months.

ODT Staged Supply Services		
Month Service Completed	Claiming Opens	Claiming Deadline
November 2024	1 December 2024	31 December 2024
December 2024	1 January 2025	31 January 2025
January 2025	1 February 2025	28 February 2025

ODT Injection Services		
Month Service Completed	Claiming Opens	Claiming Deadline
November 2024	November 2024	31 December 2024
December 2024	December 2024	31 January 2025
January 2025	January 2025	February 2025

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the team at support@ppaonline.com.au if you have any queries about the ODT Community Pharmacy Program administered by the PPA.

Questions regarding the PBS can also be directed to Services Australia on 132 290.

Kind Regards,
Pharmacy Programs Administrator

