



Compliance Bulletin

Staged Supply

This bulletin provides information to service providers to help you comply with the [Staged Supply Program Rules](#). The bulletin focuses on ensuring services are only claimed for patients who are prescribed eligible medicines.

Submitting accurate claims under the Staged Supply Program requires correctly identifying eligible medicines. This bulletin provides examples of eligible and ineligible medicines, taken from real-world scenarios identified through PPA compliance reviews and common enquiries received by the PPA Support Centre. Medicines that are not eligible under the Staged Supply Program may still be dispensed by the pharmacy as staged supply, but you cannot claim funding under the Commonwealth's Staged Supply Program.

Identifying eligible medicines

There are important eligibility checks and a useful screening tool to support you when you're validating your Staged Supply Program claims. By completing the following checks, you can determine if a prescribed medicine is eligible to be claimed under the Staged Supply Program:

1. Confirm that the brand, form, strength and pack size of the medicine is listed on the PBS and has been dispensed as a PBS prescription

and

Confirm the medicine is not specifically excluded from the Staged Supply Program – these are all medicines under the [Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs \(HSD\) Program \(Community Access\)](#) including those currently eligible under the [Opioid Dependence Treatment \(ODT\) Community Pharmacy Program](#).

2. Confirm that the [body system classification](#) of the medicine is one of those eligible under the Staged Supply Program.

Eligible medicine classes and associated body system classification codes:

- Opioid analgesics – [N02A](#) – Nervous system > Analgesics > Opioids
- Antipsychotics – [N05A](#) – Nervous system > Psycholeptics > Antipsychotics
- Anxiolytics – [N05B](#) – Nervous system > Psycholeptics > Anxiolytics
- Hypnotics and sedatives – [N05C](#) – Nervous system > Psycholeptics > Hypnotics and sedatives
- Antidepressants – [N06A](#) – Nervous system > Psychoanaleptics > Antidepressants
- Psychostimulants – [N06B](#) – Nervous system > Psychoanaleptics > Psychostimulants, agents used for ADHD and nootropics

Examples of eligible and ineligible medicines

The following table outlines the checks used to determine if each example medicine is eligible or ineligible to be claimed under the Staged Supply Program. See the notes after the table for more context.

Medicine, brand, form and pack size	Check the prescription type and program arrangement	Check the body system classification	Eligible for funding under the Staged Supply Program?
Diazepam – Valium – 5 mg tablet – 50 pack size*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dispensed as a PBS prescription ✓ PBS code: 3162K ✓ General PBS schedule 	✓ N05B	✓ Eligible
Diazepam – Valium – 5 mg tablet – 50 pack size*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Dispensed as a private prescription ✓ PBS code: 3162K ✓ General PBS schedule 	✓ N05B	✗ Ineligible because the prescription was not dispensed as a pharmaceutical benefit.
Clonazepam – Paxam 2 – 2 mg tablet – 100 pack size*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dispensed as a PBS prescription ✓ PBS code: 1806C ✓ General PBS schedule 	✗ N03A	✗ Ineligible because N03A (antiepileptics) is not an eligible body system classification.
Oxycodone – OxyNorm – 10 mg capsule – 20 pack size*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dispensed as a PBS prescription ✓ PBS code: 8501K ✓ General PBS schedule 	✓ N02A	✓ Eligible
Methadone – Biodone Forte – 5 mg/mL oral liquid, 200 mL*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dispensed as a PBS prescription ✓ PBS code: 13334T ✗ S100 HSD Community Access arrangement 	✗ N07B	✗ Ineligible because it is prescribed and dispensed under the S100 HSD Community Access arrangement and N07B (drugs used in addictive disorders) is not an eligible body system classification. This should be claimed under the ODT Community Pharmacy Program . †
Methadone – Physeptone – 10mg tablet, 20 pack size*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dispensed as a PBS prescription ✓ PBS code: 12520Y ✓ Palliative Care schedule 	✓ N02A	✓ Eligible
Buprenorphine – Temgesic – 0.2 mg sublingual tablet – 50 pack size*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Dispensed as a private prescription ✗ Temgesic is not on the PBS 	✓ N02A	✗ Ineligible because Temgesic is a Schedule 8 medicine dispensed as a private prescription.

NOTES

* It is important to check that the medicine has been prescribed as a pharmaceutical benefit, that is, as a PBS prescription, not as a private prescription.

If a prescription is for a PBS-listed pack size but with an increased maximum quantity, for example, 2 packs of 50 tablets of Valium 5 mg, it must be prescribed as

an [authority required prescription](#) for which the prescriber must obtain telephone or written approval from Services Australia or DVA. Private prescriptions for PBS-listed pack sizes with a total quantity greater than the PBS maximum quantity or pack sizes not listed on the PBS are not eligible for funding under the Staged Supply Program.

- † For ODT Community Pharmacy Program medicines, please refer to the [ODT Community Pharmacy Program Rules](#). Please contact the PPA Support Centre to discuss your options for claiming under the ODT Community Pharmacy Program.

Number of eligible medicines and pick-up days to enter when submitting claims

When submitting a Staged Supply Program claim via the PPA Portal, to show that a patient meets the eligibility criteria of having been prescribed at least one eligible medicine as a pharmaceutical benefit, you must ensure that you enter only an eligible medicine. Medicines that are not eligible for the Staged Supply Program must not be entered into the claim form, even if the patient is also receiving these in instalments outside the funded program.

When submitting claims, enter the total number of pick-up days that the patient has come into your pharmacy for eligible staged supply pick-ups over the month. If you see a patient more than once in a day, you should still count only one pick-up day for claiming purposes.

Compliance support

The PPA encourages you to read the [Staged Supply Program Rules](#) and [PPA General Terms and Conditions](#) carefully. You can also find more compliance educational information in the [Compliance section of the PPA website](#) and the [PPA Monitoring, Compliance and Audit Factsheet](#).

The PPA Compliance team is available to support you and clarify the program requirements to help you comply. For general compliance enquiries, please call 1800 951 285 and ask to speak with a member of the Compliance team.