



# Information for Hospital Pharmacies

## Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-payment Program Changes

Under the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement, the Australian Government committed to enhancing the Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-Payment program.

From 1 July 2021, the following changes will come into effect:

- A new centralised patient registration database for the program, managed by Services Australia, will go live. Current registration details will be transferred to the new database.
- Any PBS prescriber or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner registered with Medicare as a provider can register eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the program via Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) if they are not already registered.
- PBS prescribers will no longer be legally required to write or electronically print 'CTG' on eligible PBS prescriptions for registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, annotation of a PBS script will help Section 94 Approved Private Hospital pharmacists, when dispensing the medicines, know that the patient is registered for the program.
- General Schedule PBS prescriptions issued by PBS prescribers within public hospitals will now be eligible to be dispensed by any community pharmacy or Section 94 Approved Private Hospital pharmacy.
- New reason codes will be provided for PBS claiming and PBS Online will reject claims, for PBS prescriptions, covered under this program, being dispensed from Section 94 Public Hospital pharmacies.

### Please note:

- Section 94 Approved Private Hospital pharmacies can still dispense PBS prescriptions covered under the program.
- Section 94 Public Hospital pharmacies are still not able to dispense PBS prescriptions covered under the program.
- The program will continue to apply to prescriptions for PBS General Schedule medicines only. PBS medicines supplied under a special supply arrangement established under Section 100 of the *National Health Act 1953*, e.g. Highly Specialised Drugs, are not covered under the Program.
- Questions regarding changes to the dispensing software you use will need to be directed to your respective Software Vendor.

