

Update from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

December 2024

The latest meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) was held on 13 December, the final one-day Intracycle meeting of 2024. This update aims to enhance the Committee's communication to all stakeholders separate to the formal minutes of the meeting which will be published as usual.

PBAC Considerations

The December 2024 meeting agenda included 22 items: including 7 new submissions from sponsors and 2 items carried over from July 2024. Additionally, there were requests from doctors and patients to update certain PBS listings to match current clinical practices and make prescribing easier.

In response to requests from clinician and patient stakeholders, the Committee discussed:

- Immune-mediated inflammatory diseases in children
- Blood pressure medicines
- Hepatitis C antiviral medicines

The Committee is dedicated to ongoing discussions with clinician and patient groups to ensure that the PBS listings and prescribing rules support access to effective medicines. After final reviews with stakeholders and sponsors, more details will be available in 2025.

External presentations

The meeting included a briefing on research summaries from three Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant recipient groups. These groups focused on modelling cancer populations, with input from drug utilisation subcommittee (DUSC) experts. The PBAC has now sent these findings to its Subcommittees for review and feedback.

Additionally, the PBAC reviewed and endorsed new and renewed membership nominations for its Subcommittees: DUSC, the Economics Subcommittee (ESC), and the Nutritional Products Working Party (NPWP), starting in 2025.

Next PBAC meeting

The next 3-day PBAC meeting is scheduled for 12 – 14 March 2025. The public agenda is now available, and the opportunity for providing [comments](#) and input is ongoing until 29 January 2025.

The [outcomes from the November PBAC meeting](#) are now published.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful Christmas and New Year.

Robyn Ward
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

Jo Watson
Deputy Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee