



## Streamlined Chemotherapy Arrangements Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a Chemotherapy Medication Chart?

A chemotherapy medication chart can be any medication chart that enables the prescribing of chemotherapy infusions and other eligible Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for a patient receiving chemotherapy treatment. However, a chemotherapy medication chart must include the following information to be eligible for PBS subsidy.

<p><b>Patient identification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient’s full name as it appears on their Medicare card</li> <li>• Patient’s address</li> <li>• Patient’s Medicare number</li> <li>• Any number specified on a card, issued by the Commonwealth, as an entitlement number for a patient</li> </ul> <p><b>Prescriber details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• PBS Prescriber Number</li> <li>• Contact number (mobile/pager)</li> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Signature and date</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medicine details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBS, RPBS or private</li> <li>• Medicine and form</li> <li>• Dose, route and frequency</li> <li>• Streamlined Authority/Authority Approval Number/Authority Prescription Number</li> <li>• Brand substitution not permitted</li> <li>• Signature</li> <li>• Date of prescribing</li> </ul> <p><b>Hospital details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital name</li> <li>• Hospital provider number</li> </ul>
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### 2. Which PBS items can be prescribed using a Chemotherapy Medication Chart?

Under the changes, a chemotherapy medication chart (paper or electronic) can be used to prescribe the following PBS items:

<p><b>Public hospital patients receiving chemotherapy treatment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemotherapy infusions, as outlined in Schedule 1 to the <i>National Health (Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy) Special Arrangement 2011</i>.</li> <li>• Related Benefits as outlined in Schedule 2 to the <i>National Health (Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy) Special Arrangement 2011</i>, for public hospitals participating in the Pharmaceutical Reform Arrangements.</li> <li>• All other PBS medicines available for general supply at a public hospital.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Private Hospital patients receiving chemotherapy treatment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemotherapy infusions, as outlined in Schedule 1 to the <i>National Health (Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy) Special Arrangement 2011</i>.</li> <li>• All other PBS medicines available for general supply at a private hospital.</li> </ul>
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**3. *Why has this change been made?***

The Department made this change following requests from industry, to support the safety of chemotherapy patients and reduce administrative burden on prescribers and pharmacists amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

**4. *Does this apply to both paper and electronic medication charts?***

Yes. The changes allow the use of either an electronic or paper chemotherapy medication chart that meets the information requirements outlined above and that is electronically approved by a prescriber. Hospitals using an electronic chemotherapy medication chart must ensure the medication chart system meets the requirements of the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*.

**5. *Can PBS Authority and Section 100 EFC medicines be prescribed under this arrangement?***

Yes, as long as the Chemotherapy Medication Chart captures all necessary information to support PBS claiming (including an authority prescription number, and any requisite authority approval numbers). State and Territory prescribing and supply requirements must also be met. Section 100 medicines other than those approved under the EFC Special Arrangement may not be prescribed and supplied under this arrangement.

**6. *How do I generate a PBS Authority Prescription Number for chemotherapy medication charts?***

The Department of Health, in consultation with Services Australia, has developed a fact sheet to support the generation of an Authority Prescription Number for Chemotherapy Medication Charts. This fact sheet is available on the PBS website.

**7. *How should prescribers account for originals and repeats on Chemotherapy Medication Charts?***

To support PBS pricing arrangements and ensure that consumers are not required to make a co-payment upon every supply of a chemotherapy medicine, it is important that medicines are prescribed as originals and repeats. To do this, prescribers should identify within the Chemotherapy Medication Chart the number of repeats required to enable supply of the medicine for the necessary duration.

**8. *What are the implications of these changes for PBS Online Claiming?***

Hospital pharmacists are not required to change their current PBS online claiming practices under these changes. This means:

- Hospital pharmacies **should** continue to claim PBS benefits for all items prescribed on a chemotherapy medication chart using either the Public or Private Hospital patient category; and
- Hospital pharmacies **should not** use the PBS Hospital Medication Chart patient category for chemotherapy medicines.

**9. *What records should Pharmacists keep to support PBS claims?***

Pharmacists should prepare an electronic pharmacy record for each pharmaceutical benefit prescribed and claimed using the Chemotherapy Medication Chart. Records must be retained for a minimum of two years from the date of supply.

**10. *Where will the Chemotherapy Medication Chart be stored in the hospital?***

The original Chemotherapy Medication Chart for each patient will be stored at the point of care while in use, and then with the patient's medical record as per local policies and in accordance with state and territory regulations.



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***11. How long do copies of the Chemotherapy Medication Chart need to be kept?***

The original Chemotherapy Medication Chart for each patient will be stored by the hospital with the patients' medical record for a minimum of seven years. Copies of the Chemotherapy Medication Chart used by the approved supplier as a direction to supply and the Chemotherapy Medication Chart supply record must be kept by the approved supplier for two years for regulatory and audit purposes.

***12. How long will the interim measure be in place?***

Over the next six months, the Department will be developing a national PBS Chemotherapy Medication Chart in consultation with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare and industry organisations. Requirements for electronic PBS Chemotherapy Medication Charts will also be developed as part of this process. The revised arrangements for COVID-19, as outlined in this Fact Sheet, will cease after a reasonable transition period.

***13. Can I contribute to the development of the Chemotherapy Medication Chart?***

If you are interested in participating in consultation around the development of the PBS Chemotherapy Medication Chart, please provide an expression of interest via [PBSHMC@health.gov.au](mailto:PBSHMC@health.gov.au).

***14. Where can I seek further information?***

For further information concerning the interim prescribing arrangements for chemotherapy, please contact the Department of Health via [efc@health.gov.au](mailto:efc@health.gov.au).