

POST-MARKET REVIEW OF AUTHORITY REQUIRED PBS LISTINGS – Medication Services Queensland

Medication Services Queensland (MSQ) is a unit within the Queensland Department of Health. Its responsibilities include liaison with the Commonwealth on matters relating to pharmaceuticals, including the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

MSQ approves of the Terms of Reference as far as they go. The Authority system places a bureaucratic burden on providers, and is often reduced to a 'tick the box' process. Relaxation of the system, however, carries the risk that prescribing may stray outside approved restrictions, and thus increase cost to the Commonwealth without a concomitant benefit.

We would suggest, therefore, that the ToR be extended to consider:

- Investigation of the resources required to ensure compliance with any relaxed regulatory arrangements, and how those resources should be prioritised.
- Harmonisation of Authority requirements between the public and private sectors
- Removal of the restrictions on dispensing and claiming of private prescriptions in the public sector, and vice versa. The inability of private pharmacies to claim public hospital Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs) prescriptions is a particular barrier to quality care.