

30 October, 2015

Dear COPD Review Secretariat,

Re: Post-market Review of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Medicines

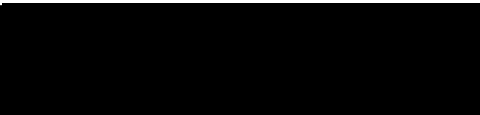
The Lung Foundation Australia is the peak organisation for lung health in Australia. Given the impact of COPD we have a distinct focus on this disease cohort and provide significant support through our well-established COPD National Program. We are aware that there is a level of confusion amongst patients and clinicians regarding the medicine combinations available and have been working to address this. We play a key role in developing national guidelines for COPD, "The COPD-X Plan: Australian and New Zealand guidelines for the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease". Moreover we focus on the translation of these guidelines across a variety of settings including primary care. The full range of Lung Foundation Australia resources can be found <http://lungfoundation.com.au/>.

We welcome the intention to conduct a review of the PBS listed COPD medicines. We are however, surprised at the timing, as the data collection period may limit a true assessment of the impact of the new medicines. On reviewing the draft Terms of Reference we would advocate that the key objectives are made more apparent. As the Terms are quite broad there is a risk that the intended outcomes may be lost. We would suggest that the emphasis of the review should be on the quality use of medicines. With this solid focus, the review provides the opportunity to explore inconsistencies against the current evidence, and importantly recommend strategies to limit these. We would be in favour of the review outcomes concentrating on clinical improvements rather than merely cost cutting measures.

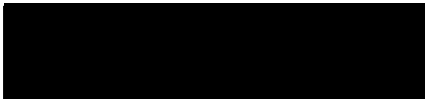
We thank you for the invitation to nominate an organisational representative to participate in the Expert Reference Group for the review. We have sent a separate letter to the PBS, First Assistant Secretary, with the details of our nominee. We would, however, like to express our disappointment that as the peak organisation related to COPD we were not formally advised that the review was taking place. Moreover the timing to comment on the draft Terms of Reference, 16 October – 30 October is very limiting. We would urge you to ensure that the review is conducted in a timely manner and key stakeholders are adequately notified. This will allow for the necessary planning and mobilisation of resources to provide considered and informed responses.

We look forward to participating in this post-market review going forward.

Yours faithfully,



Heather Allan, CEO,
Lung Foundation Australia



Professor Christine McDonald MBBS (Hons), FRACP, PhD, FCCP
Chair of the COPD Executive Committee, Lung Foundation Australia

