

22 April 2016

COPD Review Secretariat

Via email: PBSsubmissionsPMR@health.gov.au

Re: Post-market Review on COPD medicines

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on the *Post-market Review on COPD medicines*. NPS MedicineWise considers the review to be an important piece of work and we are supportive of the established Terms of Reference.

As you are aware, NPS MedicineWise is a national, independent, evidence based, not-for-profit organisation working to improve the way medicines and other medical technologies are prescribed and used in practice. We create better health outcomes through behaviour change interventions, evidence based information to support decision making and targeted health communication campaigns for health professionals and consumers in Australia.

NPS MedicineWise has designed and delivered several national programs to improve the management of COPD, which is a reflection of the significant quality use of medicines issues in this area. Our last national visiting program on this topic was in 2006 with non-visiting programs in 2010, 2008 and 1999. Since these programs, national COPD guidelines have been updated and many new COPD medicines and inhaler devices have come onto the market and/or have been added to the PBS. This has contributed to a number of quality use of medicines (QUM) issues in the management of COPD, including but not limited to:

- health professionals experiencing difficulty keeping up to date with the ever expanding range of medicines and devices to manage COPD
- poor inhaler technique and medicines adherence in some patients
- poor knowledge of and adherence with national guidelines
- potential misclassification of COPD and asthma COPD overlap.

NPS MedicineWise is concerned that the number of new medicines and combinations of medicines delivered via new inhaler devices may lead to significant confusion amongst consumers and health professionals. We are currently developing a new national program to address some of the above-mentioned QUM issues.

We would be happy to discuss our forthcoming program in more detail should the COPD Review Secretariat be interested. Please do not hesitate to contact Kerren Hosking, Executive Manager Corporate Affairs and Governance, on (02) 8217 8796 or email khosking@nps.org.au, should you wish to discuss this further.

We look forward to reading the outcomes of the Post-market Review on COPD medicines and incorporating relevant outcomes into our program.

Yours sincerely


Dr Lynn Weekes AM
CEO