

PBS Post-Market
Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 900
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

14 November 2012

Dear Sir

Re: Submission to the Australian Government's review of products and medicines used in the treatment of diabetes: Self-monitored blood glucose testing for people with type 2 diabetes mellitus

Diabetes Western Australia strongly supports the position of Diabetes Australia in regard to the above submission.

Self Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) is a key self-management tool to assist people with diabetes understand how their blood glucose levels may be affected by what they eat, lifestyle choices, illness and many other variables.

For those newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes structured SMBG is particularly important as it provides an opportunity to learn about the impact of diet and exercise on their blood glucose. Also for people struggling with less than optimal HbA1c levels regular self-monitoring is an important management and information tool.

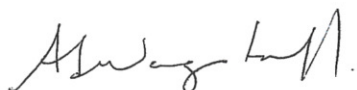
Of great concern is that if there are restrictions applied to accessing subsidised blood glucose strips the potential for adverse outcomes is heightened, especially in regard to the management of hypoglycemia.

Finally, diabetes is a serious disease and limiting access to blood glucose testing strips implies that if you don't require insulin then your diabetes is not serious. Diabetes is a progressive disease and we know that 75% of people with type 2 diabetes will require insulin, so it is important that people are managing their disease as effectively as possible and as early as possible. To do this they need to be self-monitoring their blood glucose.

We strongly believe that SMBG should continue to be available to all Australians with non-insulin treated type diabetes as it is a significant element of self-management and consequently better health outcomes for people with diabetes.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW WAGSTAFF
Chief Executive Officer
Diabetes WA