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AMA SUBMISSION: DIABETES MANAGEMENT REVIEW – PBS MEDICINES USED IN THE TREATMENT OF TYPE 2 DIABETES

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the third stage of the PBAC review of diabetes management focusing on medicines used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes (T2DM).

Review of guidelines

The AMA accepts PBAC's role in managing PBS expenditure by applying prescribing restrictions and limitations based on analysis of a medicine's cost effectiveness as well as evidence-based best practice guidelines.

Based on AMA members' comments, it may be timely for the Australian best practice guidelines for diabetes management to be reviewed, particularly as the patient cohort is living longer and current guidelines may no longer be appropriate for these patients. The current multiple guidelines separately published by the NHMRC, Diabetes Australia and the RACGP also add to the confusion and a single authoritative version should be agreed.

This would give PBAC a better basis on which to review PBS restrictions so that they reflect the latest best practice evidence as well as cost effectiveness considerations.

Current practice

The AMA does not have substantive information about medical practitioners prescribing behaviour or experiences with T2DM medicines to inform this review.

AMA members report situations when the particular clinical circumstances of the patient make it necessary for a patient to be prescribed medicines outside the PBS restrictions, such as due to:

- patient driven concerns that the next step will be insulin dependence; or
- specialists initiating therapy outside the PBS restrictions for clinical reasons and the GP needs to continue that therapy.

In these situations, medical practitioners should inform the patient that there will be no PBS subsidy and the patient can make an informed decision about the cost of their treatment.

Please contact Ms Georgia Morris on gmmorris@ama.com.au or 02 6270 5466 in the first instance if you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Dobb', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Geoff Dobb
Vice-President
Chair, AMA Therapeutics Committee

25 June 2013

gd:gm