



Opioid dependence treatment medicines - Overview factsheet

This factsheet provides a summary of the PBS changes for opioid dependence treatment (ODT) medicines which commenced on 1 July 2023, and an overview of the claiming and payment arrangements for section 90 approved community pharmacies.

Overview

- On 1 July 2023, [ODT medicines](#) became part of the [Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs \(HSD\) Program \(Community Access\) arrangements](#), and a new ODT staged supply service fee and a buprenorphine injection service fee is available to registered section 90 approved community pharmacies. Note: Section 94 hospital pharmacies are not eligible to make staged supply or buprenorphine injection claims.
- **Importantly, patients will not be charged any additional dispensing or dosing fees to receive their ODT medicines from PBS section 90 approved community pharmacies.**
- Under the Section 100 HSD Program, ODT medicines can be dispensed from a section 90 approved community pharmacy, a section 94 public or private hospital, or from a section 92 approved medical practitioner.
- The Australian Government continues to fund PBS subsidised access to medicines for ODT in correctional facilities in the same way that it does for all medicines listed under the Section 100 HSD Program.
- GP clinics can continue to offer treatment including with long-acting injectable buprenorphine by obtaining supplies dispensed by PBS approved pharmacies
- All existing clinics which currently treat and provide clinical services to patients, including services rebated under the Medicare Benefits Schedule, can continue to do so. They can prescribe ODT medicines, but they cannot dispense medicines under the PBS Section 100 HSD Program. Under the *National Health Act 1953*, only approved pharmacies can dispense PBS medicines.
- PBS-eligible patients will typically pay the [PBS co-payment](#)¹ (\$25.00 for general patients and \$7.70 if the patient has a concession card) for up to 28 days' supply per pharmaceutical benefit. The amount paid contributes towards the patient's PBS Safety Net threshold.
- From 1 July 2024, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended maximum quantities for up to 28 days of supply, with 5 repeats (i.e., up to 6 months' supply). A summary of the PBAC outcome is available [here](#). This was a change from the arrangements in place from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 when PBAC recommended maximum quantities (based on maximum daily doses in line with [national guidelines](#)) for up to 28 days of supply, with 2 repeats (i.e., up to 3 months' supply). The Public Summary Document is available [here](#).

¹ Pharmacies should treat [under co-payment](#) prescriptions for ODT medicines in the same way as all under co-payment medicines supplied under the PBS.

- The [Section 100 HSD Program legislation](#) sets out the basis for payment to approved suppliers (pharmacies) which is based on the ex-manufacturer price of the drug.

Payment arrangements

Section 90 approved community pharmacies can:

- Submit a PBS claim to Services Australia and receive:
 - the PBS ready-prepared dispensing fee and dangerous drug fee (indexed annually, for current fees see [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | Fees & Patient Contributions](#))
 - a [Section 100 mark-up](#) (which will vary as it is a percentage of the ex-manufacturer price of the drug)
 - remuneration for the Wholesaler mark-up (for more information see [First Pharmaceutical Wholesaler Agreement fact sheet](#)) and ex-manufacturer price of the drug for each pharmaceutical benefit supplied **AND**
- Participate in the ODT Community Pharmacy Program through the [Pharmacy Programs Administrator](#) in accordance with the Program Rules (see Table 1 for the ODT staged supply service fee and the buprenorphine injection administration fee).

Table 1. ODT Community Pharmacy Program Fees

Fees	Fee amount (per day)	Fee amount (28 days)
ODT Staged Supply Service Fee		
Dose management fee	\$4.69	\$131.32
Consumables allowance fee	\$0.97	\$27.16
Total	\$5.66	\$158.48 per patient
Buprenorphine Injection Administration Fee	-	\$22.15 per injection ²

ODT Community Pharmacy Program

- The ODT staged supply service fee is a daily fee per patient for activities associated with the staged supply preparation of eligible ODT medicines (i.e., for in-pharmacy and take-away dosing preparation including consumables).
- The buprenorphine injection administration fee is a service fee that can be claimed per injection for activities associated with the administration of the injection.
- Section 90 approved community pharmacies can claim for all eligible patients for which they are providing ODT staged supply services i.e., there are no caps on the number of eligible patients for which a service provider can claim each month. However, section 90 approved community pharmacies must continue to comply with any limits set by their state/territory government on the number of patients they can service.

² E.g., on-site administration of a monthly injection (over 28 days): 1x \$22.15 administration fee. Administration of 4 weekly injections (over 28 days): 4 x \$22.15 = \$88.60 in administration fees.

- There is no requirement for patients to be experiencing financial hardship to participate in the ODT Community Pharmacy Program.
- Participating pharmacies can claim for other community pharmacy program services accessed by ODT patients, in accordance with each program's Program Rules.
- Section 90 approved community pharmacies should refer to the [ODT Community Pharmacy Program Rules](#) for further information. **Table 2. Examples of PBS fees and ODT Community Pharmacy Program fees for the supply of ODT medicines from section 90 approved community pharmacies.**

Note: As part of the PBS claim, pharmacists are also remunerated for the approved ex-manufacturer price (AEMP) (i.e., the cost of the drug) for the dispensed quantity.

ODT medicine prescribed / quantity (28 days)	PBS dispensing fees ¹	ODT Staged supply fee ² (28 days)	Buprenorphine injection administration fee ³	Total fees (excluding AEMP and PBS co-payment)	AEMP
Methadone liquid, 5mg/ml, 28 days' supply (max qty) Dispensed from 1L bottle	\$18.43	\$158.48	N/A	\$176.91	\$33.20
Buprenorphine sublingual tablets, 8mg, 28 days' supply (max qty)	\$30.98	\$158.48	N/A	\$189.46	\$383.84
Buprenorphine with Naloxone Sublingual films, 10mg, 28 days' supply (10mg daily dose) (Prescribed as one qty of 8mg films + one qty of 2mg films)	\$36.84	\$158.48	N/A	\$195.32	2mg film: \$46.20 8mg film: \$119.20
Buprenorphine weekly injections, 28 days' supply (max qty)	\$29.62	N/A	\$88.60	\$118.22	\$351.12
Buprenorphine monthly injection, 28 days' supply (max qty)	\$29.62	N/A	\$22.15	\$51.77	\$351.12

¹ PBS S100 HSD Program fees include a ready-prepared dispensing fee and a dangerous drug fee (indexed annually – for current fees see [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | Fees & Patient Contributions](#)), a s100 mark-up, and the 1PWA Wholesaler mark-up (for more information see [First Pharmaceutical Wholesaler Agreement fact sheet](#)).

² ODT Staged Supply/Dose management fee (\$4.69 per day) + consumables allowance fee (\$0.97 per day) = \$5.66. Applies equally for in-pharmacy and take-away doses.

³ Buprenorphine injections: \$22.15 per injection i.e. 1 x monthly injection (28 days) = \$22.15; weekly injections (4 x injections for 28 days) = \$88.60