Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee
Outcome Statement 1st of October 2026

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 119th meeting on 1 October 2026.

DUSC has a national focus of excellence in collecting, analysing and interpreting data on the utilisation of medicines in Australia for use by the PBAC. Review of the utilisation of medicines is an essential management tool in facilitating the objectives of the National Medicines Policy.

The PBAC is also committed to understanding consumer perspectives and integrating them into consideration of medicines and vaccines. Consumers are able to provide their views about medicine utilisation reviews to the PBAC via the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) consultation hub.

Submissions to the PBAC

A joint DUSC and Economics Sub-Committee meeting was held on 1 October 2026 to consider 3 category 1 submissions, and 1 standard re-entry resubmission. These submissions will be considered at the November 2026 meeting of PBAC. The agenda for the November 2026 PBAC meeting can be found on the PBS website. DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for the submissions where there was high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns.

Utilisation of PBS Listed Medicines

DUSC regularly examines utilisation of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) items when there is at least 24 months of prescription data available and where DUSC or the PBAC has highlighted items of interest. When an analysis of utilisation is to be undertaken sponsors are notified and provided with a copy of the report and an opportunity to comment prior to the DUSC meeting. Reviews to be considered by the PBAC are also published in the PBAC meeting agenda. All reports, sponsor comments and DUSC assessment of the reports are subsequently provided to the PBAC. DUSC welcomed an enthusiastic discussion on a range of consumer inputs to inform analysis and support explanations of patterns in utilisation and dispensing trends.

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in October 2026:

Durvalumab for advanced biliary tract cancer

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of durvalumab for locally advanced, metastatic or recurrent biliary tract cancer (intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, and gallbladder cancer). DUSC noted that treatment uptake of durvalumab for locally advanced, metastatic or recurrent biliary tract cancer appears to have plateaued and there was a difference in the actual number of patients initiating treatment than predicted.

Darolutamide for the treatment of metastatic castration sensitive prostate cancer

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of Darolutamide for the treatment of metastatic castration sensitive prostate cancer. DUSC noted that the utilisation of darolutamide increased rapidly following its PBS listing for metastatic castration sensitive prostate cancer on 1 December 2023 and although initiation numbers broadly stabilised in recent quarters, the total number of

patients who received darolutamide and the number of prescriptions dispensed continued to increase through to the end of the observation period.

DUSC requested that the utilisation reports be provided to the PBAC for consideration.

An outcome statement will be available following each meeting of DUSC. For further information, please contact the DUSC Secretariat at DUSC@health.gov.au.

Professor Chris Etherton-Beer
Chair
Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee