



Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Botulinum Toxin Program

May 2025

The PBS Botulinum Toxin Program helps eligible patients access PBS subsidised botulinum toxin to assist in the treatment of conditions such as facial spasms, urinary incontinence, chronic migraine and symptoms associated with cerebral palsy.

The way PBS subsidised botulinum toxin is supplied aligns with other PBS arrangements, using PBS prescriptions and hospital pharmacy coordination points. PBS botulinum toxin medicines are not supplied through community pharmacies, even if they are acting as agents for hospitals.

A full list of the Botulinum Toxin Program medicines and PBS eligibility criteria is available on the [PBS website](#).

Information for patients

Patients visit their specialist medical practitioner for assessment and treatment and are not required to take a prescription for botulinum toxin to the hospital pharmacy.

Specialist medical practitioners can write a patient 2 prescriptions for botulinum toxin on the same day, where there is a clinical need to treat 2 different conditions.

PBS patient co-payments apply for each prescription of a botulinum toxin medicine. If a patient is prescribed PBS botulinum toxin for treatment of more than one condition (for example dynamic equinus foot deformity and spasticity of the upper limb), more than one PBS co-payment will apply. Standard PBS patient eligibility criteria also apply, enabling patients to access the PBS Safety Net. The prescriber will advise what local arrangements are in place for payment of the PBS copayment. Current PBS co-payments for Concessional and General patients and further information on PBS Safety Net arrangements can be found on the [PBS website](#).

Information for prescribers

Prescribers are responsible for ensuring that they meet the PBS prescriber eligibility criteria applicable to each indication for which a botulinum toxin medicine is prescribed. Prescribers should note that separate state or territory requirements may also apply.

Access to PBS botulinum toxin is prescription-based. Prescribers must write a prescription for each patient, for each indication and each treatment period, ensuring the prescriptions they write comply with PBS requirements for subsidised botulinum toxin, including patient and prescriber eligibility criteria. Prescribers are able to write 2 prescriptions for botulinum

toxin for the same patient on the same day, where there is a clinical need to treat 2 different conditions.

The PBS restriction for botulinum toxin prescriptions is Authority Required [STREAMLINED], and require annotation of streamlined authority codes specific to the indication for use. These codes can be found on the [PBS website](#) and can be used for prescriptions where the quantity required on prescription does not exceed the PBS maximum quantity given in the [PBS Schedule](#).

PBS Authority Required [STREAMLINED] prescriptions can be generated by most clinical practice software and printed on blank PBS prescription stationery. Alternatively, a prescriber's personal PBS Authority prescription pads may be used, with the correct streamlined authority code annotated on the prescription. Including the correct streamlined authority code is important to ensure the supply and PBS claiming can occur.

The ordering, dispensing and claiming of PBS subsidised botulinum toxin must take place with the involvement of a section 94 approved hospital authority (hospital pharmacy). A range of delivery options are open to prescribers depending on the practice location, including direct manufacturer supply of botulinum toxin medicines to a prescriber's rooms, rather than via the hospital pharmacy. Patients must not be placed in a position where they handle botulinum toxin medicines.

Prescribers may order botulinum toxin medicines from hospital pharmacies in advance of providing a valid PBS prescription/s to cover the supply. PBS Regulations require prescribers to make prescriptions available to the hospital pharmacy within seven days of a verbal or written order.

PBS patient co-payments apply for each prescription of a botulinum toxin medicine, whether a patient is treated as a public or private patient. While hospital authorities are not required to collect PBS co-payments if they so choose, if PBS co-payments are to be collected, local arrangements should be made between the hospital authority and prescribers. Patients will need to be advised of local arrangements, and should also be made aware that if they are prescribed PBS subsidised botulinum toxin for more than one indication, more than one PBS co-payment will apply. Current PBS co-payments for Concessional and General patients can be found on the [PBS website](#).

PBS subsidised botulinum toxin vials must not be split across patients as multi-use is not permitted under PBS Regulations. While the PBS permits the prescribing of multiple vials of botulinum toxin for a patient per indication, prescribers are reminded to prescribe only the sufficient quantity for the relevant procedure. This may not be known until the patient has been assessed on presentation. Maximum quantities per prescription for each botulinum toxin product are listed on the [PBS website](#).

In clinical circumstances where the quantity of vials required for a patient's immediate treatment (for a single indication) exceeds the PBS maximum quantity specified in the PBS Schedule, prescribers must seek prior approval to prescribe that quantity from Services Australia, via either Telephone Authority Applications 1800 888 333 or the Online PBS Authorities system. Further information regarding the Online PBS Authorities system is available on the [Services Australia website](#).

WHERE CAN I SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION?

Any further queries can be emailed to the [PBS Botulinum Toxin Program mailbox](#).

Information for pharmacies

A section 94 approved hospital authority (hospital pharmacy) must be involved in the ordering, supply and PBS claiming of botulinum toxin products. Local arrangements may be made between the hospital authority and the prescriber for the delivery of botulinum toxin to, or collection by, the prescriber, noting that patients must not be placed in a position where they handle botulinum toxin medicines. Delivery direct from product manufacturers to a prescriber's rooms is also permitted provided there is a prescription. Local arrangements may also be made between the hospital authority and prescribers for collection of PBS patient co-payments, as only hospital authorities are permitted to supply and make claims to the Commonwealth in respect of PBS subsidised botulinum toxin. Hospital authorities are able to supply and claim for botulinum toxin pharmaceutical benefits on presentation of a valid PBS prescription, for the treatment of all eligible patients.

Pharmacists should note that a PBS benefit like botulinum toxin that is subject to Authority Required or Authority required [STREAMLINED] requirements cannot be supplied prior to the date of prescribing.

Hospital authorities are remunerated for supplying PBS subsidised botulinum toxin in the same way that they are remunerated for supplying medicines listed under the PBS Highly Specialised Drugs Program. PBS patient co-payments apply for each prescription of a botulinum toxin medicine.

Pharmacists must claim for the supply of botulinum toxin items using the relevant PBS item codes. These item codes correspond to the different indications for which each brand, form and strength of botulinum toxin may be prescribed, as identified by the streamlined authority code included on the prescription. For current PBS item codes please refer to [PBS Schedule](#).

Where a prescriber has written 2 botulinum toxin prescriptions for the same brand, form and strength of botulinum toxin for the same person on the same day consistent with legislative requirements, pharmacists are able to claim for each supply as the applicable PBS item codes are different.

For assistance in relation to claiming matters, please call the Services Australia General Enquiries line on 132 290.