Opioid dependence treatment medicines - transitional arrangements for private clinics and non-PBS dosing sites

## Overview

As of 1 July 2023, patients access the [opioid dependence treatment (ODT) medicines](https://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/section100-md) they need on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) through PBS approved pharmacies under the [Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program (Community Access) arrangements](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/community-access-for-highly-specialised-drugs?context=23411).

All existing clinics continue to be able to treat and provide clinical services to patients if authorised by states and territories, including services rebated under the Medicare Benefits Schedule. PBS prescribers (medical practitioners and nurse practitioners) 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.

## Transition arrangements

The Australian Government will continue to pay pharmaceutical companies directly for ODT medicines supplied to authorised private ODT clinics and other non-PBS dosing sites (including GP clinics) for a transition period to 30 June 2024 (extended from 30 November 2023).

Private clinics and non-PBS dosing sites can continue to order directly from the pharmaceutical wholesaler/distributor and receive stock at no cost until 30 June 2024.

These transition arrangements allow state and territory governments time to work with non-PBS dosing sites to transition patients to a PBS approved community pharmacy or make other arrangements.

Only private clinics and non-PBS dosing sites that have been authorised by state and territory ODT programs to participate in the transitional arrangements will be able to access these arrangements (this may include GP clinics). **Please contact your state and territory ODT program if you would like to access the transitional arrangements for private clinics and non-PBS dosing sites.**

These transition arrangements do not apply to PBS approved community or hospital pharmacies who must supply ODT medicines to their patients under the PBS arrangements.