Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee
Outcome Statement 2nd and 3rd October 2025

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 116th meeting on 2nd and 3rd October 2025.

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

DUSC considered 10 category 1 submissions and one standard re-entry. These submissions will be considered at the November 2025 meeting of PBAC. The agenda for the November 2025 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 reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in October 2025:

Daratumumab for amyloid light-chain (AL) amyloidosis

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of daratumumab for newly diagnosed amyloid light-chain amyloidosis. DUSC noted in 2023, 294 patients were supplied 3,270 prescriptions and in 2024, 443 patients were supplied 4,881 prescriptions for the treatment of AL amyloidosis. The median age of patients initiating treatment was 70 years.

Elexacaftor, tezacaftor and ivacaftor (Trikafta) for cystic fibrosis

In 2024, there were 3,126 patients supplied 30,208 prescriptions of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) modulators, including 307 initiating patients. Of those prescriptions, 27,089 prescriptions of the combination medicine elexacaftor, tezacaftor and ivacaftor (ELX/TEZ/IVA) were supplied to 2,890 patients, including 209 initiating patients. Between PBS listing on 1 April 2022 and 30 June 2025, 3,209 patients were supplied ELX/TEZ/IVA, including 1,320 (41%) patients who initiated on and have only been supplied ELX/TEZ/IVA. DUSC noted the uptake of ELX/TEZ/IVA was rapid. DUSC considered that the PBS listing of CFTR modulators, particularly ELX/TEZ/IVA, had improved the management and care of patients with CF, and improved the life expectancy and quality of life for patients.

Medicines for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia or small lymphocytic lymphoma
DUSC reviewed the utilisation of PBS medications used in the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL). DUSC noted that there was an increase in first-line incident and prevalent patients, and prescriptions dispensed in the third quarter of 2023 which coincided with the PBS listing of zanubrutinub on 1 September of 2023, and by the listing of acalabrutinib and acalabrutinib in combination with obinutuzumab on 1 January 2024. The number of second-line incident and prevalent patients treated, and scripts dispensed had remained constant over the analysis 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.

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Chair
Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee