



## Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee Outcome Statement 6th of February 2026

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 117<sup>th</sup> meeting on 6 February 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 5 February 2026 to consider 2 category 1 submissions and 6 category 2 submissions. These submissions will be considered at the March 2026 meeting of PBAC. The agenda for the March 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 reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in February 2026:

#### Fluticasone propionate for severe asthma

The DUSC reviewed the recent utilisation of PBS-listed fluticasone propionate 50 microgram (mcg) in children following restriction changes in 2023 and 2024 as requested by the PBAC. From 1 April 2022 to 1 April 2023, there were an average of 2,607 patients per month initiating to fluticasone propionate 50 mcg who were 6 years of age and over. This compared to 178 patients per month from 1 April 2023 to 1 July 2023 and 1,535 from 1 July 2023 to 1 July 2024. The initiations in these later two periods were outside the PBS restriction. The DUSC noted that the initial restriction change led to reduced utilisation in the eligible population, but appeared to have returned to a similar level as that about 4 months prior to the 1 April 2023 restriction changes. The DUSC noted that there are no true structural barriers to the eligible population accessing therapy, and that prescriber behaviour drives the utilisation of inhalers in this patient group. Appropriate quality use of medicines training for General Practitioners would be beneficial to promote appropriate inhaler prescribing.

**Mepolizumab for chronic rhinosinusitis**

Since PBS listing on 1 April 2023, 2,509 patients have been supplied 31,992 prescriptions of mepolizumab for the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps. At the end of the data collection, 80% of the patients who had initiated treatment were identified as continuing treatment.

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](mailto:DUSC@health.gov.au).

Professor Chris Etherton-Beer  
Chair  
Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee