

Update from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee April 2026

This update is part of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's (PBAC) commitment to enhanced communication with our stakeholders. It provides a summary of activities and focus areas, independent of our formal meeting cycle.

Review of the PBAC Guidelines

Work is progressing on the review of the [PBAC Guidelines version 5.0](#). Over the last several weeks, external Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Evaluation Groups have been delivering technical work, supported by preliminary input from the PBAC Executive.

The first phase of the review focuses on two key areas:

- Comparator selection
- Discount rates

The Committee will review these findings over the coming months following a period of consultation with various stakeholders to ensure the guidelines remain robust and fit for purpose.

Stakeholder Engagement and Clinical Updates

The PBAC Chairs have met with several patient and clinical groups this month. Discussions focused on clinical updates for current PBS restrictions within specific disease areas, including:

- Multiple myeloma
- Metabolic disorders
- Crohn's disease, Colitis, and related conditions

A recurring topic has been the status of PBAC recommendations that have not yet been progressed by Sponsors. These meetings provided an opportunity to clarify the post-PBAC processes and the respective roles of the Committee, the Department, and Sponsors in bringing recommended medicines to the PBS. A second topic has been the inconsistency between PBS restrictions and contemporary clinical practice guidelines.

Medicine Supply and Access

The Committee is closely monitoring formal inputs regarding medicine supply issues. Protecting access for patients and prescribers to essential medicines is a fundamental principle of the National Medicines Policy.

Given the complexity of global and domestic markets, the Committee is dedicated to providing the Government with rigorous, evidence-based advice. Our priority remains ensuring that population health

needs and patient access are at the centre of all recommendations during periods of supply pressure. Meetings with craft groups have also indicated their concerns around the criticality of access to essential medicines and that newer medicines are often only effective where they can be added to existing treatments.

Commitment to Transparency and Evidence

The Committee remains dedicated to the transparency of its processes. As a Committee, we are bound by the *National Health Act 1953* to provide advice that is evidence-based, patient-focused, and equitable.

We value our partnerships with clinicians, consumers, and industry. To maintain trust in the PBS, we encourage all stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue based on facts and legislative realities. The Committee continues to welcome opportunities for briefings and responses to ensure our deliberations are understood clearly by the community.

Upcoming PBAC Meetings

- Intracycle Meeting: **8 May 2026**
- Full PBAC Meeting: **8 - 10 July 2026**

*Note for Stakeholders: [Consultation has opened for the July PBAC agenda](#). Submissions must be received by **20 May 2026**.*

Professor Robyn Ward AM

Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

Ms Jo Watson

Deputy Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee