



PBS Changes for Nivolumab and Ipilimumab – Patient Factsheet

1 March 2026

From 1 March 2026, the PBS (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) is expanding its listings for the cancer medicines nivolumab and ipilimumab. The PBS changes will broaden access for people with advanced or metastatic cancers, meaning more patients may be able to receive these medicines subsidised by the PBS.

Which previous PBS indications are being replaced?

The broad listings for nivolumab and ipilimumab will replace its existing listings for the following PBS listed indications:

- Unresectable Stage III or Stage IV malignant melanoma
- Locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer
- Stage IV clear cell variant renal cell carcinoma (RCC)
- Recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, pharynx or larynx
- Unresectable Stage III or Stage IV malignant melanoma
- Stage IV (metastatic) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)
- Advanced or metastatic gastro-oesophageal cancers
- Unresectable or metastatic urothelial carcinoma.

What does this mean for patients?

If you are already receiving nivolumab or ipilimumab, you will continue to have access to your treatment. However, from 1 March 2026 your doctor will need to provide you with a new PBS prescription so your medicine can be dispensed under the updated PBS listing item code. When this new prescription is issued, you will need to pay a new PBS co-payment of either \$25.00 for general patients or \$7.70 for concession patients.

If you are a new patient seeking access to nivolumab or ipilimumab, you should discuss this with your treating physician. If you are eligible, your doctor can arrange a PBS prescription for you under the updated listing item code from 1 March 2026.

What do I need to do?

You do not need to take any action immediately.

Your healthcare team will:

1. Review your treatment plan.
2. Issue a new PBS prescription after 1 March 2026.
3. Ensure your treatment schedule continues as planned.

Where can I find more information?

From 1 March 2026, the full updated PBS criteria will be available on the [PBS website](#).

If you have questions about your treatment, speak with:

- Your oncologist or cancer specialist
- Your pharmacist
- Your cancer care coordinator