Expansion of the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co‑payment Program –   
Information for First Nations People

# What is the Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Program?

The CTG PBS Co-payment Program improves access to affordable PBS medicines for First Nations people living with, or at risk of, chronic disease.

Under this program, eligible First Nations people who are registered on the CTG PBS Co-payment Register and who would normally pay the full general PBS co-payment amount, pay the concessional rate when obtaining PBS medicines from their local community pharmacy, approved medical practitioner, or private hospital. Eligible patients who would normally pay the concessional rate receive their PBS medicines for free, without having to pay a co-payment.

# What is changing?

From 1 July 2024 the CTG PBS Co-payment Program has been expanded to apply to all PBS medicines dispensed by community pharmacies, approved medical practitioners, and private hospitals.

From 1 January 2025, the program will be further expanded to apply to all PBS medicines dispensed by public hospitals.

# What do the changes mean for patients?

Eligible CTG patients will now benefit from a reduced co-payment or no co-payment for all their PBS medicines in all treatment settings and locations where PBS medicines are available.

# What new medicines are now covered under the CTG PBS Co-payment program?

Additional medicines covered under the expanded CTG PBS Co-Payment Program include all PBS medicines able to be supplied under the following five Section 100 Programs:

* + **Highly Specialised Drugs Program** – which includes opioid dependence treatment, hepatitis B, and HIV antiretroviral medicines.
  + **Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Program**
  + **Botulinum Toxin Program**
  + **PBS Growth Hormone Program**
  + **In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Program**

Details of each of these programs can be found on the PBS website at: [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au/)

# What is not changing?

* There are no changes to how eligible First Nations people are registered for the program and existing patients will not need to re-register for the program.
* Eligible First Nations people can be registered for the program no matter where they live, and regardless of their health status.
* Eligible Frist Nations people not registered for the program will need to talk to their health practitioner to see if they are eligible for registration.

# How much will First Nations people registered for the program pay for their PBS medicines?

First Nations people who are registered for the program but do not have a Concession Card will pay $7.70 (current as of 1 January 2024) for the majority† of their PBS medicines.

If registered First Nations people have a Concession Card, they will receive the majority† of their PBS medicines for free.

† Where a brand premium applies to the PBS medicine being supplied this will be payable by the patient in addition to any PBS co-payment at the time of dispensing.