



18 November 2019

Louise Clark
Assistant Secretary
Office of Health and Technology Assessment Policy
Department of Health
PO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Clark

RE: PBS Public consultation on the draft Terms of Reference for the post-market review of medicines for smoking cessation

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia is the national professional organisation for more than 5,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia's health system. SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core business of pharmacists, especially in hospitals.

SHPA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the post-market review of medicines for smoking cessation. As part of the review of the utilisation of PBS-listed medicines for smoking cessation, SHPA recommends reporting and consideration of the setting of care in which therapy was initiated (hospital or community), in draft Term of Reference 2 as otherwise an opportunity may be lost to understand the use of smoking cessation medicines.

Our members report that hospitals are a significant intervention point for patients who smoke given that those who attend are often critically ill, vulnerable and encouraged to make a smoking cessation attempt. Many people who smoke and happen to be hospitalised with cardiovascular^{1,2,3}, respiratory or neurological conditions report being prepared and making efforts to quit, as do those who attend emergency departments and attribute their visit to a smoking-related problem. In response many hospitals have developed smoking cessation services for inpatients, leveraging critical intervention opportunities to support patients in initiating their quit journey and discharge patients with appropriate smoking cessation medicines.

SHPA understands the utilisation data would be able to identify the prescribing and dispensing location of PBS-listed medicines for smoking cessation between hospital pharmacy and community pharmacy dispensers. Thus, SHPA anticipates insights and analysis of this setting-specific data would allow the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and interested stakeholders to develop a better understanding of how these medicines are used to inform recommendations to improve their utilisation. This could also potentially provide healthcare service providers more informed insights as to where formal smoking cessation services are able to have the greatest impact of reducing smoking rates in the community and achieve better utilisation of the PBS-listed medicine for smoking cessation.



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Hospital based programs have varied use of PBS-listed medicines for smoking cessation on discharge. This may impact on the eligibility of patients' further access to PBS-listed medicines for smoking cessation once they return to the community, due to PBS supply restrictions of 12 weeks in any 12-month period.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss our submission further, please do not hesitate to contact Johanna de Wever, General Manager, Advocacy and Leadership on jdewever@shpa.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K. Michaels'.

Kristin Michaels
Chief Executive

References

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- ¹ Shah L, King A, Basu A, Krishnan J, Borden W, et al. Effect of clinician advice and patient preparedness to quit on subsequent quit attempts in hospitalized smokers. *Journal of Hospital Medicine*, 2010; 5(1):26–32. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20063403>
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