

Post-market review of medicines for smoking cessation: public consultation on terms of reference

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Purpose

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) makes this submission to the Australian Government Department of Health on the draft terms of reference for the post-market review of medicines for smoking cessation.

About PSA

PSA is the only Australian Government-recognised peak national professional pharmacy organisation representing all of Australia's 31,000 pharmacists working in all sectors and across all locations.

PSA is committed to supporting pharmacists in helping Australians to access quality, safe, equitable, efficient and effective healthcare. PSA believes the expertise of pharmacists can be better utilised to address the health care needs of all Australians.

PSA works to identify, unlock and advance opportunities for pharmacists to realise their full potential, to be appropriately recognised and fairly remunerated.

PSA has a strong and engaged membership base that provides high-quality health care and are the custodians for safe and effective medicine use for the Australian community.

PSA leads and supports innovative and evidence-based healthcare service delivery by pharmacists. PSA provides high-quality practitioner development and practice support to pharmacists and is the custodian of the professional practice standards and guidelines to ensure quality and integrity in the practice of pharmacy.

Comments on the draft terms of reference

PSA offers the following comments on the current draft terms of reference:

1. Collate the current clinical guidelines for medicines for smoking cessation and compare these to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and PBS restrictions for these medicines.
 - Decisions about health care service delivery including the quality use of medicines should be based on best available current evidence. While reputable clinical guidelines are generally subjected to regular reviews, they may not necessarily capture all of the available evidence at any one time including any new or recent research evidence. Therefore, PSA suggests that the scope of the terms of reference be expanded so that additional information, research outcomes or published evidence can be considered together with 'current clinical guidelines' in this post-market review.
2. Review the utilisation of PBS-listed medicines for smoking cessation including patient demographics, time on treatment, and the proportion using PBS subsidised combination treatment.
 - Under point 3 (below), the efficacy and safety of medicines for smoking cessation which are not currently PBS-subsidised are included for consideration in this post-market review. Therefore PSA suggests it would be useful to expand point 2 so that data and information on the utilisation of smoking cessation medicines not currently PBS-subsidised are also considered.
3. Review the efficacy and safety of PBS-listed medicines and guideline-recommended medicines for smoking cessation, including those not currently PBS subsidised.
 - PSA supports point 3 of the draft terms of reference.
4. Review the cost-effectiveness of PBS-listed and guideline-recommended medicines for smoking cessation.
 - PSA supports point 4 of the draft terms of reference.

Finally, PSA also requests that "identification of barriers to access to medicines for smoking cessation" be included in the draft terms of reference.

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