Post-Market Review Secretariat
Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee
PBSsubmissionsPMR@health.gov.au

Our ref H20/36557

Dear Post-Market Review Secretariat

I write regarding the current Post-Market review of medicines for smoking cessation.

I would like to note NSW Health's support for the review of the cost-effectiveness of smoking cessation medicines, particularly combination nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) not currently listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

As the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has previously noted, current clinical guidelines indicate that combination NRT therapy accompanied by behavioural support is more effective than NRT monotherapy accompanied by behavioural support, and should be recommended to people who have evidence of nicotine dependence.

NSW Health supports all measures that are likely to reduce smoking prevalence, particularly in groups that have high smoking prevalence, such as Aboriginal people.

Whilst smoking prevalence in Aboriginal communities has decreased in recent years, the daily smoking rate of Aboriginal people in NSW was still more than double that of non-Aboriginal people in 2017-18.

Access to affordable NRT is a key factor in the delivery of effective tobacco control strategies, particularly in Aboriginal communities. Whilst Aboriginal people have access to an additional course of PBS-subsidised NRT in a 12 month period, there is no provision for subsidised combination NRT.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the post-market review. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Meredith Claremont, Acting Executive Director, Centre for Population Health on 9461 7195 or at Meredith.Claremont@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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