

# Prostheses List Advisory Committee

## Communique No. 7

The Prostheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC) met for the seventh time on 11 May 2017 in Sydney.

### Committee management

The Chair provided an overview of the meeting held with the Clinical Advisory Groups (CAG) Chairs on 30 March 2017 where the following was discussed:

- opportunities to engage and contribute to broader medical device assessment processes;
- development of CAG specific guidance for sponsors to improve the quality of applications submitted;
- improved assessment processes for clinicians; and
- reform work including CAG involvement in targeted reviews.

The Committee noted:

- the recent media release from the Minister for Health 'Prostheses reforms to deliver better value in private health insurance'. This release flagged public release of PLAC documents to commence consultations and an intention to work with the sector to deliver better value for private health insurance in 2018;
- the Senate Inquiry into Price regulation associated with the Prostheses List report was due to be released on 11 May 2017;
- the federal Budget and the Minister's announcement of next wave of reforms; and
- advice from the MSAC Chair regarding the MBS item for goniotomy.

### HESC and CAG Terms of Reference and Operational Guidelines

It was agreed that the amended drafts of the HESC and CAG ToRs and Operational Guidelines would be published to the PLAC website. Feedback from stakeholders would be considered.

### CAG and Panel Nominees

The Committee considered two new nominees and one re-nomination for Panel representatives. These nominations were endorsed by the Committee. The Committee also discussed improved ways to manage any perceived or real conflicts of interest.

### Prostheses listings

A report on the status of applications was noted, including any delays or issues associated with assessments being completed. The Committee considered 27 applications to list new devices on the Prostheses List: 19 were recommended for granting, 8 were deemed not suitable for listing as they did not meet the criteria for listing.

The Committee considered 56 requests to change current listings on the Prostheses List: 48 were recommended for granting, 8 were declined.

### Reform Workplan Activities

- *Targeted benefits and category reviews*

The Committee's *Approach for Targeted Prostheses Reviews* has been released for public consultation. The consultation period closes on 7 June 2017.

The Committee:

- noted that the Minister had announced the commencement of targeted reviews of hip, knee, cardiac and spine categories. The Department would support the reviews by compiling any available data to help inform the targeted reviews.
- requested the relevant CAGs to draft a timeline and proposed project plan for their respective review, including opportunities for stakeholder consultation and feedback.
- noted pricing information was anticipated from the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority.
- discussed pricing examples provided by members of the Committee.

The Committee confirmed its views on the Superior Clinical Performance suffix and noted that advice to the Minister would outline the importance of maintaining a way to clearly identify superior performing devices to assist clinician decisions and patient outcomes.

➤ *Longer Term Benefit Setting Framework*

The University of Melbourne's research report *Prostheses Benefit Setting Framework – Comparative Analysis of Benefit Pricing Models* has been published to the Committee's website. Further work and consultation will be required to progress a framework.

➤ *Review the Criteria for Listing*

In the context of exploring options for rationalising the number of items on the Prostheses List, the Committee discussed the scope of private health insurers' contract negotiations with hospitals and the role of the National Procedure Banding Committee as they relate to low cost items.

The Committee noted definitions for medical devices used in other countries in the context of discussing the criteria for listing devices on the Prostheses List. Discussion also occurred on Part C of the Prostheses List, other funding pathways for devices and custom made devices including 3D printed devices.

## **Other Business**

The Committee:

- discussed the cost of activities associated with maintaining the Prostheses List and cost recovery revenue currently collected from sponsors. It requested the Department provide advice on revising future fee structures.
- discussed the Senate Inquiry relating to trans-vaginal mesh products and agreed to make a submission. The submission would be in the context of explaining the relationship between the TGA and the Committee and that there are currently a number of products on the Prostheses List.
- noted the Health Technology Assessment Round Table for medical devices forum scheduled for 9 June 2017 in Sydney. The round table will include representatives from MSAC, its subcommittees and the Advisory Committee on Medical Devices managed by TGA.

The Committee was provided with a presentation from a medical device manufacturer and a presentation from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science including MTP Connect.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 22 June 2017 at Parliament House. The Minister for Health is expected to attend.