



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

1 October 2009

CHANGES TO PBS – 1 OCTOBER

Changes from 1 October to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) will help improve the health outcomes for more Australians.

A change to the listing of **Methylphenidate hydrochloride**, in tablets (extended release) (*Concerta*®) and capsules (modified release) (*Ritalin LA*®), will make them available for continued treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder beyond the age of 18 years in patients diagnosed between the ages of 6 and 18 years consistent with the advice of the department's Paediatric Medicines Advisory Group. Minimal additional expense to the PBS is expected.

Restrictions on **Oestradiol** transdermal gel and patches, available in various brands, (*Sandrena*®) (*Estradot*®) (*Estraderm*®) (*Estraderm MX*®) (*Climara*®) (*Estalis continuous*®) (*Estalis sequi*®) and (*Estracombi*®) will be removed. This follows the recent deletion of multiple tablet forms of hormone replacement therapy (HRT). The restricted benefit listings for the transdermal patch and gel forms for HRT are being changed to become unrestricted benefit listings. This is not expected to incur additional costs to the PBS.

An alteration to the listing of **Filgrastim** injection (*Neupogen*®) and **Pegfilgrastim** injection (*Neulasta*®) under the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program will see the use of filgrastim and pegfilgrastim extended to include secondary prevention of low white cell counts in patients receiving treatment with docetaxel in combination with cisplatin and fluorouracil for inoperable head and neck cancer

For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220.