



## **THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP**

Minister for Health  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Aged Care

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **New drug listing Iclusig for chronic myeloid leukaemia**

Patients with rare chronic myeloid leukaemia and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia now have affordable access to a life-changing medicine that would normally cost up to \$66,500 per year for treatment, Minister for Health Sussan Ley said.

Ms Ley said the Turnbull Government would invest \$20 million over five years in listing Iclusig to provide patients with greater choice and ensure they receive the most appropriate treatment for chronic myeloid leukaemia and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Ms Ley said that 125 Australian patients will now pay just \$6.10 (concessional) or \$37.70 (general) for Iclusig – another example of the Turnbull Government delivering on its promise to list new medicines as quickly as possible.

“Access to new medicines is crucial if we’re to help Australians beat life threatening diseases, which so often can rob them of their independence,” Ms Ley said.

“This \$20 million investment will deliver greater affordable access for patients who would otherwise pay up to \$66,500 per year for the life-saving treatment for chronic myeloid leukaemia and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

“This new listing of Iclusig will particularly benefit patients who are intolerant of the treatments already on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for this rare disease that is most common in adults over 50.

“In fact the Coalition Government has already listed double the number of drugs compared to Labor’s last term in office and in half the time, and that investment is only going to continue to grow.”

Ms Ley said the Coalition Government has now more-than-doubled the number of new and amended drug listings on the PBS to over 798 – worth almost \$3.2 billion in total since September 2013 – when compared to Labor’s 331 listings during their last three-year term in office

Ms Ley said today’s announcement also demonstrated the importance of the Coalition Government’s PBS Reform Package, which passed the Senate earlier this year.

“Meeting community expectations that new drugs will be listed quickly also comes at a significant cost, with taxpayers expected to invest \$50 billion making medicines more affordable for patients over the next five years alone.

“Our PBS reform package ensures spending on existing medicines is as efficient as possible so we can continue to list new drugs such as these as well.”

Details of the listings will be published in the *Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits*, which is updated monthly and accessible through the [PBS website](#).

### **Examples of drug listings:**

Since coming to office in September 2013, the Commonwealth has listed the following medicines, among others, on the PBS:

- *Keytruda (2015) – Melanoma – \$57 million – \$150,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Soliris (2014) – Atypical Haemolytic-Uraemic Syndrome (rare immune disease) – \$63 million – \$500,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Kayldeco (2014) – Cystic Fibrosis – \$174 million – \$300,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Mekinist (2015) – BRAF-positive Metastatic Melanoma – \$594 million – \$131,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Adcetris (2014) – Lymphoma – \$15.2 million – over \$110,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Perjeta, Herceptin and Kadcykla (2015) – Breast Cancer – \$191 million combined – \$82,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Crizotinib (2015) – Lung Cancer – \$60 million – \$80,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Lemtrada (2015) – Relapsing, Remitting Multiple Sclerosis – \$50 million – \$70,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Abraxane (2014) – Pancreatic Cancer – \$92 million – \$16,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*
- *Lucentis (2015) – Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO) and Diabetic Macular Oedema (DME) (blindness) – \$541 million – \$10,000 per patient if not subsidised through the PBS*

*Listing these medicines on the PBS means patients pay just the PBS co-payment, with taxpayers covering the difference in the cost of treatment. For example, a patient using Soliris – which costs \$500,000 per patient – now pays just \$6.10 if they are a concession card holder or \$37.70 if they are a general patient as a result of the drug being listed on the taxpayer-funded PBS.*

**ENDS**

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