

**Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement
Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee Communique, 30 October 2020**

The inaugural meeting of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee (PSCC) was held on 30 October 2020.

Key discussion

PSCC representatives discussed key 7CPA implementation tasks, with primary consideration to those activities that require commencement of action within the first 12 months of the 7CPA and the establishment of key performance measures. It was recognised that key performance measures should be appropriate, measurable, meaningful and evidence based, enabling reliable mechanisms for continuous improvement. The Department of Health (the Department) advised its intention that key performance measures will be publically available.

Representatives discussed the key planned changes and implementation activities associated with the following 7CPA Pharmacy Programs, consistent with the changes noted in the 7CPA for Year 1:

- Indigenous Dose Administration Aid (IDAA) Program – A consultation process with key stakeholders has been completed, with a second consultation process planned. The Department intends for this to focus on cultural awareness training and communications. The new IDAA Program would provide uncapped access to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from 1 July 2021.
- Dose Administration Aid Program – From 4 January 2021, the base cap will increase from 30 to 60 services per pharmacy per week.
- Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) program – The 7CPA’s intention to increase investment in rural and remote areas. The program will move from the Pharmacy Access / Remoteness Index of Australia model to the Modified Monash Model of rural classification from 1 January 2021.
- Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Copayment reforms – Enabling any eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person to be registered for the Program, enabling any PBS prescriber and Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency registered Aboriginal Health Practitioners to register eligible persons and establishing a once-off registration mechanism.
- Staged Supply Program and the Opiate Dependence Treatment Program – Discussion acknowledged the aims of each program, and the opportunity to consider re-design in the future.

The PSCC agreed to progress work, out of session, in relation to 7CPA key performance measures, discussions regarding clinically appropriate provision of medicines information to consumers, and the transparency of PBS medicines costs for patients.

The PSCC intends to meet again in March 2021.

Background

The PSCC is one of two 7CPA governance committees, and has been established as a consultation mechanism intended to facilitate broad engagement between parties interested in the operation and development of the elements of the pharmacy sector funded by the Commonwealth, including community pharmacy programs.

The PSCC has representation from the Australian Government Department of Health, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Consumers Health Forum Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Adriana Platona, First Assistant Secretary, Technology Assessment and Access Division, Australian Government Department of Health.

Further information regarding the 7CPA is available at:

www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/seventh-community-pharmacy-agreement