

Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement – Implementation Activities

This document presents a summary of identified tasks and activities undertaken or required to be undertaken over the term of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA).

Reference to operative clauses of the 7CPA are presented where relevant. **Last updated 14 July 2023.**

Summary of implementation activities and indicative timeframe

Activity Topic	Indicative Timeframe	Activity Description
Community Pharmacy Program changes <i>(Clause 9.3)</i>	1 July 2021 <i>(Ongoing with a number of program reforms specified for Year 1 complete)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Community Pharmacy Program priorities (those stipulated in 7CPA, before wider program reform from year two). • Consider/consult/amend existing pharmacy programs. • Stakeholder engagement/communication and lead time. • Programs/changes implemented include: IHSPS Program (from 1 July 2021), Indigenous DAA Program (from 1 July 2021); DAA base cap increases (from 1 January 2021); RPMA transition to MMM (from 1 January 2021). • Government commitment, as part of 2023-24 Budget, to increase funding for Community Pharmacy Programs over the term of the 7CPA.
Closing the Gap – PBS Co-payment Measure reforms <i>(Clause 10)</i>	1 July 2021 <i>(Complete)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforms commenced 1 July 2021. • Grace Period for registrations finished 30 June 2022. • CTG PBS Co-Payment Program has been operating under updated program rules, with no warnings at the dispensing end since 1 July 2022.
New or enhanced community pharmacy initiatives and incentives <i>(Clauses 9.3.5 and 11)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult/establish any new pharmacy programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New or enhanced initiatives and incentives, such as e-health and e-prescribing, mental health, patient access to medicines, and aged care services, with outcomes demonstrated through pharmacy trials; ○ Determine priority order for establishment of any new programs; ○ Establish timeframe for commencement of each program; ○ System changes (including claiming/payments); and ○ Stakeholder engagement/communication and lead times.
Assessment of Commonwealth funded services under Community Pharmacy Programs <i>(Clause 9.6.2)</i>	To commence 2021-22 <i>(Not Commenced)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department to undertake or commission an assessment of Commonwealth funded services under Community Pharmacy Programs during the term of the 7CPA to identify and assess the outcomes, efficiency and effectiveness of such programs. • Assessment expected to commence during the second year of the 7CPA. • Results will be published. • Review of IHSPS Program commenced June 2022 – Final Report expected September 2023. • Evaluation of DAA programs commenced December 2022 – Final Report expected June 2024.
Publish revised Community Pharmacy Program data	July 2020 <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7CPA Programs data published monthly from July 2020 at: www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/pharmacy-programs-data • Publish additional program data.

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Community Pharmacy Consultation Committee (CPCC) <i>(Clause 16.1 and Appendix C)</i>	October 2020 <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the CPCC • Meetings to be held biannually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First meeting: 30 October 2020 ○ Second meeting: 1 April 2021 ○ Third meeting: 11 November 2021 ○ Fourth meeting: 15 June 2022 ○ Fifth meeting: 16 November 2022 ○ Sixth meeting: 17 May 2023 • Meeting communiques published following each meeting at: www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/community-pharmacy-consultation-committee-tor-and-communiques
Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee (PSCC) <i>(Clause 16.2)</i>	October 2020 <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the PSCC • Department established Terms of Reference (ToR), in consultation with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Guild), Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF), National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and others, as appropriate. • ToR endorsed by Minister for Health and published at: www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/pharmacy-stakeholder-consultation-committee-tor. • Meetings to be held biannually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First meeting: 30 October 2020 ○ Second meeting: 1 April 2021 ○ Third meeting: 11 November 2021 ○ Fourth meeting: 15 June 2022 ○ Fifth meeting: 16 November 2022 ○ Sixth Meeting: 17 May 2023 • Meeting communiques published following each meeting at: www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/pharmacy-stakeholder-consultation-committee-tor-communiques-and-implementation-activities
Consumer medicines information (CMI) <i>(Clause 15)</i>	By 31 December 2020 <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild to ensure that Approved Pharmacists provide CMI to patients in accordance with all relevant professional practice standards and guidelines, including Standard 6 (Medicines Information) of the PSA's Professional Practice Standards, as clinically appropriate. • Department consulted with CHF and NACCHO in first year of 7CPA – including on activities being undertaken by National Prescribing Service eg. Quality Use of Medicines in Remote Area Aboriginal Health Services (RAAHS) project.
Transparency of charges <i>(Clause 4.3)</i>	By 30 June 2021 – <i>(Complete)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild worked with the Department during first twelve months of 7CPA to develop arrangements and processes for Approved Pharmacists to make the disclosures required and to notify consumers, prior to dispensing, of the price of the Pharmaceutical Benefit. • Health consulted with stakeholders, including PSA, CHF and NACCHO, within first twelve months of 7CPA on proposed arrangements. • From 1 January 2022, resources developed by Guild published on: findapharmacy.com.au/pbs-pricing • Guild to provide updates at regular biannual meetings of PSCC.
Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal (PBRT) (for Wholesale Mark-up changes and Indexation) <i>(Clause 2.2.4 and 13)</i>	By 31 December 2020 – <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene PBRT prior to 31 December 2020 – Wholesale Mark-up changes • Convene PBRT prior to 30 June in first, second, third and fourth years of 7CPA – Indexation

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Price changes – Wholesale Mark-up <i>(Clause 2.2.4 and 13)</i>	1 January 2021 – <i>(Complete)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 January 2021 – Wholesale Mark-up changes. • 1 January 2021 – alignment of approved hospital authorities with s85 wholesale mark-up.
Indexation <i>(Clause 2.2.4, 4.2.4 and 13)</i>	For 1 July each year <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indexation to be applied as relevant on 1 July 2021, 1 July 2022, 1 July 2023 and 1 July 2024, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tier One Administration Handling and Infrastructure fee; ○ Dispensing fee for Ready-Prepared Pharmaceutical Benefits; ○ Dangerous Drug Fee; and ○ Safety Net Recording Fee.
Arrangements for prescribing – Electronic Prescription Fee arrangements <i>(Clause 9.4)</i>	By 30 June 2021 <i>(In progress)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Prescription Fee arrangements in place under 6CPA to continue during first year of 7CPA • Department to establish direct arrangements between the Commonwealth and prescription exchange services to facilitate pharmacists’ receipt of electronic prescriptions. • From 1 July 2023 – Electronic Prescription Services administered through a separate arrangement external to 7CPA.
Volume based Remuneration Adjustment Mechanism <i>(Clause 3 and Appendix B)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment periods and monitoring of estimated PBS and RPBS volumes (including any adjustment of the Additional Patient Charge): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020; ○ 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2021; ○ 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022; and ○ 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023.
Options for a system to pay RAAHS Approved Pharmacists within the timeframe for paying online PBS prescriptions <i>(Clause 7.3)</i>	By 30 June 2022 <i>(Not Commenced)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost neutral options could be identified by either Commonwealth or Guild in the first 12-24 months of the 7CPA to implement these changes.
Review of CPCC and PSCC arrangements <i>(Clause 16.4.2)</i>	By 30 June 2022 <i>(Completed)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the second year of the 7CPA, Department may review CPCC and PSCC arrangements to assess their continued suitability. • PSCC discussed the need for a review of consultation arrangements at its 15 June 2022 meeting. • Department to consider further review should the need arise.
Assessment of volume-based remuneration adjustment mechanism <i>(Clause 3.5)</i>	By 30 June 2023 <i>(In Progress)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the third year of the 7CPA, Department and Guild to assess fitness for purpose of the adjustment process in Appendix B of the 7CPA.
Code of Ethics <i>(Clause 14.2)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(In Progress)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSA and Commonwealth to work together on further development and support of PSA Code of Ethics.
Professional Practice Standards and Guidelines <i>(Clause 14.6)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(In progress)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSA and Commonwealth to consider standards (including support tools and guidance materials) that may need to be reviewed/refreshed in context of continuing community pharmacy programs (years one to two). • PSA and Commonwealth to consider standards (including support tools and guidance materials) that may need to be developed/reviewed/refreshed in context of new community pharmacy programs. <p>The Department has engaged PSA to undertake an update of the Pharmacy Professional Practice Standards and Continued Dispensing Guidelines, with this work expected to be completed by 30 June 2023.</p>

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Continuation of pharmacy program trials <i>(Clause 9.2)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(In progress)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trials established and funded under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement to continue until current trial end dates. • Outcomes of pharmacy trials to be assessed by Medical Services Advisory Committee.
Options to enhance payment times for online PBS prescriptions <i>(Clause 7.2)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(In progress)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth and the Guild to consider cost neutral options to enhance payment times for payable PBS prescriptions transmitted and assessed online.
Design and implementation of programs evaluation framework <i>(Clause 14.3 and Appendix C)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(Not Commenced)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of what data could be collected to inform evaluation for ongoing, amended or new pharmacy programs or other activities, such as dispensing, funded under the 7CPA.
Develop and monitor key performance measures aligned to 7CPA outcomes <i>(Appendix C)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPCC and PSCC to formulate options for key performance measures and support achievement of key performance measures through contribution to monitoring, evaluation and performance frameworks. A 7CPA KPM Framework and key policy principles were approved by the Minister for Health and published on the Department's website in February 2022. • The first KPM Report for the 7CPA was presented to the PSCC for review at its 15 June 2022 meeting and published in August 2022 at: www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/7cpa-key-performance-measures. • The second KPM report was presented to the PSCC for review at its 16 November 2022 meeting and was published in December 2022. • The third KPM report was presented to PSCC for review at its 17 May 2023 meeting and was published in June 2023. • The Department to consult with PSCC members to review the KPM following the first full data collection cycle.
Consultation on CSO service standard changes <i>(Clause 8.4)</i>	Term of 7CPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth to consult with Guild prior to making any changes to the CSO service standards, where such changes could have a material impact on access to PBS medicines and National Diabetes Services Scheme products for Australians.
Pharmacists administering vaccines <i>(Clause 12.2)</i>	Term of 7CPA <i>(Ongoing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing work program in Department via COAG (or equivalent). • Department to provide twice yearly updates to the Guild on the progress of the arrangements (via the CPCC). • For consideration: Budget 2023-24 provided \$114.1 million over four years for pharmacists to administer all NIP vaccines to patients aged 5 years or older from 1 January 2024, depending on State/Territory legislative requirements.
Doctor of Pharmacy <i>(Clause 12.4)</i>	Term of 7CPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education is responsible for the policy on qualification title (set out in the Australian Qualifications Framework - Qualifications Issuance Policy) and interested organisations may pursue this directly with Department of Education.