



Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) Agreement Oversight Forum (AOF)

Communiqué - 10 December Meeting

The first meeting of the 8CPA AOF was held on 10 December 2024.

Key Discussion:

- Representatives discussed Additional Community Supply Support (ACSS) payment implementation noting that following the delivery of the first tranche of manual payments by Services Australia in October 2024, the next cycle of payment was expected in January 2025, with work progressing to complete transition to an automated system by 1 July 2025.
- Representatives have collaborated to provide pharmacies clarity on requirements for closing claims to ensure timely ACSS payments.
- Representatives discussed the importance of engagement with dispensary software vendors to help enable the transition process.
- Representatives discussed the amendment to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Policy Issuance to incorporate the pharmacy profession to use the title 'Doctor of...' for graduates of an AQF Level 9 Master's Degree (Extended) in pharmacy from 1 January 2025 and noted the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has agreed to develop a communications plan to increase public awareness around the use of that title.
- Representatives discussed new and expanded pharmacy programs under the 8CPA that are expected to be announced in 2025.
- Representatives noted that from 1 January 2025, the allowable discount will reduce along with the freezing of the maximum copayments for the January 2025 year making medicines more affordable for patients. Concessional copayments would be frozen at \$7.70 until 1st January 2030.
- Representatives discussed updates to the implementation of 8CPA Community Pharmacy Programs and the progress and expenditure of the Dose Administration Aid program to ensure it is best utilised by pharmacies for eligible patients. The representatives noted that the contract for the Rapid Review and evaluation of the 8CPA Community Pharmacy Programs has been finalised, noting that this will involve further stakeholder consultations.

The AOF intends to meet again in June 2025.

Background

The 8CPA AOF is an oversight committee, with members representing the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The

AOF is the primary consultation mechanism supporting the achievement of objectives under the 8CPA and builds on work and programs from previous Community Pharmacy Agreements.

Further information regarding the 8CPA is available at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/primary-care/what-we-do/8cpa>