



Improving Access to Medicines – Stoma Appliance Scheme new listings

The Government will support people with stomas to manage their condition by adding two new and fully subsidised stoma care products to the Stoma Appliance Scheme, from 1 July this year. A stoma is a surgically created opening in the abdomen to which part of the intestine or colon is attached. The Stoma Appliance Scheme helps thousands of Australians to manage their stoma, often needed after treatment for diseases such as bowel cancer. These new listings have been recommended by the expert Stoma Product Assessment Panel. The products to be listed are:

- Rapid Dry Barrier spray designed to protect the skin from irritation; and
- LoFric Intermittent Catheter, for people with stomas that require intermittent catheterisation.

Why is this important?

The addition of these two new products to the Scheme will provide both choice and increased access for patients. It builds on the Government's commitment to providing access to affordable health care.

Who will benefit?

Patients with stomas will benefit from access to new, free stoma care products.

How much will this cost?

The Government will invest \$380 million in the Stoma Appliance Scheme from 2019–20 to 2022–23.