



Improving Access to Medicines – new payment management for high cost, life-saving medicines

The Government will ensure medicines remain affordable and accessible for all Australians and seek to provide Australia’s medicines industry with policy predictability so that it can continue to invest in medicines, research and Australian jobs.

From 2021, rebates will be paid on a monthly basis by the sponsors of high cost medicines to ensure they are available, and pharmacists and other parts of the supply chain are not left out of pocket.

Consultations on new strategic agreements with Medicines Australia and Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association with implementation of the new agreement to commence, after the expiry of the current agreements in 2022. The agreements will provide a guaranteed framework to help ensure coordinated access to medicines for patients from 2022.

Why is this important?

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the importance of timely and affordable access to PBS medicines and the critical need for stability in the medicines supply chain.

Monthly rebate payments from manufacturers for new and existing Special Pricing Arrangements medicines will strengthen the administration and efficiency of invoicing and payment processes for PBS medicines where rebates are applicable.

Who will benefit?

The timely supply of medicines benefit all Australians. Pharmacists, medicine wholesalers and manufacturers will also benefit from a more efficient system. It will also improve the Government’s ability to quickly respond to future health emergencies.