



Improving Access to Medicines – development of Unique Identification framework for PBS medicines

A Unique Identification (UID) framework will be developed to improve patient safety by tracking medicines dispensed through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The UID will be on medicine packs and allow products to be traced quickly, resulting in better product safety and quality use of medicines to benefit patients. At the same time it will help support the timely access to PBS medicines by the community. It will also likely prevent incorrect and/or fraudulent PBS claims – ensuring the PBS remains strong and sustainable now and in the future.

Why is this important?

Access to affordable medicines helps to save and protect lives.

This framework will protect the integrity of the medicines supply chain, increase transparency and enhance the Government's ability to respond to future health emergencies.

Introducing a UID for PBS medicines will provide the Government with the ability to manage vital medicine stockpiles in real time, as well as greater ability to support recalls with fast reliable data on medicine distribution. It will also provide assurance to consumers that they are receiving the right medicines.

Since 2013, the Australian Government has approved more than 2,450 new or amended listings on the PBS, through investment of \$11.8 billion.

Who will benefit?

All Australians benefit from safe, reliable and affordable medicines.

How much will this cost?

The financial impact of developing the framework will be negligible. Extensive consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the sector will inform its development.