OPIOID DEPENDENCE TREATMENT TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Below is a summary of the transitional workflow requirements for the ODT reform, and it should not be considered exhaustive. Pharmacists should always refer to the PBS ODT Program and the PPA Program Rules.

ODT PRESCRIPTIONS

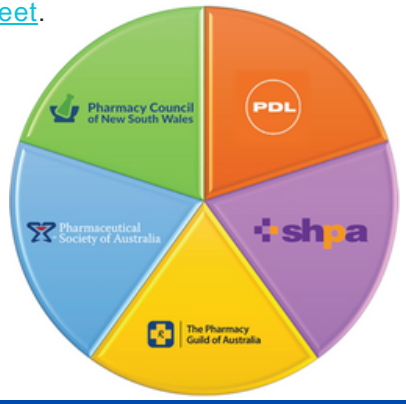
- From 1 July 2023, ODT medications will be available through the S100 HSD section of the PBS.
- Maximum quantities for ODT medicines are equivalent to 28 days of the maximum dose per day aligned with national guidelines (150 mg for methadone, 32 mg for sublingual buprenorphine, buprenorphine/naloxone), and up to 2 repeats may be ordered with repeat interval specified.
- Prescriber will need to obtain a PBS phone authority when prescribing above the maximum recommended dose.

PRIOR TO 1 JULY 2023

- Prescriptions written prior to 1 July may be dispensed, despite not being 'PBS authority prescriptions', for up to 28 days supply, provided the prescription is valid for that time.
- The transitional period for the prescription ceases upon the expiry of the prescription or on 30 September 2023, whichever is sooner.
- Pharmacies are required to obtain **patient consent** in order to submit PPA claims for each patient. It may be useful to provide ODT patients with the Patient Information Statement and Consent Form and discuss this and obtain consent before 1 July.
- The Prescriber Factsheet and the NSW Prescription Criteria are useful tools to remind prescribers about the PBS and legislative requirements.

FROM 1 JULY 2023

- Pharmacists can dispense existing ODT prescriptions and claim through the PBS. For the purposes of dispensing and claiming, existing **prescription date** will be taken to be written on 1 July 2023.
- Pharmacists should **annotate a printed copy of the electronic prescription or a photocopy of the paper-based prescription** clearly with the words 'Per HSD transition arrangements, for xx days remaining, dispensed a quantity of xx mL/tablets/film/injections (xx mg of methadone) with x repeat', followed by the date and their initials. Smaller annotations (for example, annotation of Authority Script Number) can use 'Per HSD'. Annotated photocopies should be attached to the original prescription with the patient's file.
- Pharmacists may need to **calculate the quantity of medicine and repeats** for the number of days remaining on existing ODT prescriptions using the table in the Pharmacist Factsheet.



FROM 1 AUGUST 2023

- PPA ODT claim will begin from 1 August 2023, pharmacists will need to use temporary **data collection forms** (oral/sublingual and injection) to capture required patient data in lieu of entering the data into the portal.

RECORDKEEPING

- All dispensing records must be retained for 2 years from the date of dispensing and must be kept on the premises where the prescription was dispensed.
- All PPA claim records must be retained for 7 years after the claim for payment.

STOCK CONSTRAINT

- Pharmacies experiencing stock constraint with Methadone/Biodone may email the Ministry of Health to notify stock issues.

PATIENT CAP

- The maximum number of patients in supervised ODT dosing at any one community pharmacy is 65 (Poisons Regulation 2008 cl92).
- The maximum of 65 patients in the Regulation refers to the number of patients dosed on any one day. That is, only 65 patients can be at the pharmacy each day. If a patient is at the pharmacy to pick up a week's worth, they will only count as one on the day - not for the other 6 days.