

NSW/QLD EXCEPTIONAL DRUGS LIST COMMITTEE

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CIRCULAR – EFFECTIVE 1 MAY 2012

The NSW/QLD Exceptional Drug List Committee met on 17 April 2012 to undertake its regular review of the list in the light of recent PBS changes.

For information attached is a copy of the EDL – **effective 1 May 2012 – this edition supercedes all previous versions of the EDL.**

Please ensure that this information is forwarded to ICU/CCU/Radiology/Pharmacy and all other appropriate personnel within your organisation.

CHEMOTHERAPY REFORMS – Updated Documents

Since the implementation of the National Health Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy arrangements from 1 December 2011 a number of regulatory updates had been released as noted below:

1. PB 4 of 2012 – NH Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2012 (No 1) & Explanatory Statement – Effective 1 March 2012
2. PB 79 of 2011 NH – Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Special Arrangement 2011 & Explanatory Statement - Compilation updated March 2012
3. PB 18 of 2012 – NH – Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2012 (No 2) – Effective 1 April 2012

The PBS website contains a fact sheet dated 1/4/2012 which is available from

<http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/news/2012/04/pbs-website-update-1-april-2012>

Further Information:

- For further information regarding prescribing, dispensing or claiming of chemotherapy drugs from 1/12/2011 visit – www.medicare.gov.au then select - For Health Professionals >PBS>Revised arrangements for the efficient funding of chemotherapy medicines.
- Inquiries of a technical nature may be sent to: Chemotherapy_RA@health.gov.au
- General questions regarding the PBS contact 132 290 or email to pbs@health.gov.au

PBS CHANGES FOR THE PERIOD 1 DECEMBER 2011 – 1 APRIL 2012

1 December 2011 PBS Changes

The list of drugs under the heading 'Deletions' on pages 5-8 of the 1 December PBS Summary of Changes have been removed from Section 2 of the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits. The items continue to be pharmaceutical benefits but prescribing and dispensing arrangements for these chemotherapy drugs operate under the new Section 100 program which took effect on 1 December 2011. The new program is the "Revised Arrangements for the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Drugs Initiative (Revised Arrangements)". Chemotherapy drugs used for the treatment of cancer and administered through infusion or injection are covered by these Revised Arrangements.

A separate “*Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy – Section 100 Arrangements*” schedule provides the listing details for these items. The schedule is available on the PBS website – www.pbs.gov.au/browse/publications

Items listed in the EDL which are now covered by the “*Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy – Section 100 Arrangements*” are noted in the EDL Restrictions/Special Criteria Column as EFC – Section 100 rather than just Section 100.

1 January 2012 PBS CHANGES

No PBS amendments of relevance to the EDL.

1 February 2012 PBS CHANGES

No PBS update was issued in February

1 March 2012 PBS Changes

For information only it was noted that Sumatriptan – Tablet 50 mg (as succinate) had been added to the PBS. (*Authority required – streamlined*). Sumatriptan is a fast disintegrating medication for migraine attack in patients where attacks in the past have usually failed to respond to analgesics,

1 April 2012

No PBS amendments of relevance to the EDL.

PBS – Collection of under co-payment data

From 1 April 2012, approved suppliers of PBS medicines are required to provide the Australian Government with data on PBS prescriptions that are priced below the general co-payment level. The collection only applies to claims submitted online or through the Claims Transmission System. The Department and DHS have provided information to assist software vendors to upgrade pharmacy dispensing software to facilitate under co-payment data transmission from 1 April 2012.

Further information is available from www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE EDL COMMITTEE AND ISSUING OF CIRCULARS/EDL UPDATES

With PBS changes now being released online each month, the EDL Committee has decided that monthly PBS updates will be reviewed via email consultation with the EDL Committee, and where any significant amendments are noted, hospitals and health funds will be advised accordingly. The EDL Committee will meet at least twice per annum with an EDL Update to be issued following each meeting dated May & September.

Reminder – re: Amendment Format to EDL

With effect from the 1 May 2009 EDL update, all text has been removed from the Authority PBS & Restricted PBS columns and replaced with a tick.

The presence of a tick indicates that the medication is subject to authority but the onus is on the user to verify authority requirements with the current edition of the PBS.

As a consequence of the implementation of the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Reforms from 1 December 2011, a separate Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Section 100 list has been created by the Department. Where items in the EDL are Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Section 100 listed – these are noted as **EFC Section 100** in the EDL Restrictions/Special Criteria column rather than just Section 100.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 23 August 2012

LUCY FISHER
SECRETARY – EDL COMMITTEE

Attachments:

- **EDL Update – 1 May 2012**

EDL Circular – 1 May 2012