

Closing the Gap (CTG) PBS Co-payment Measure

The Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure provides free or low-cost PBS medicines to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with, or at risk of, chronic disease.

Eligibility for the CTG measure

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible for the CTG measure if they present with an existing chronic disease or are at risk of developing a chronic disease and in the opinion of the prescriber:

- would experience setbacks in preventing or managing chronic disease if they didn't take the prescribed PBS medicine
- are unlikely to keep up their treatment without assistance through the measure.

Eligible patients can be registered at:

- general practices participating in the Indigenous Health Incentive Practice Incentives Program (PIP)
- Indigenous Health Services (IHS) located in urban and rural areas.

Annotating CTG prescriptions

When a patient is registered for the CTG measure, prescribers can grant the benefits of the measure by annotating 'CTG' on the patient's prescription to indicate that the pharmacist should dispense the PBS medication with co-payment relief.

CTG prescriptions can be written with either a computer generated annotation or a handwritten annotation followed by the initials or signature of the prescriber.

Charges for PBS items on CTG prescriptions

Under the CTG measure, general (non-concessional) patients presenting a CTG prescription will be charged the current concessional rate for each PBS item on that prescription.

Concessional patients presenting a CTG prescription will not pay a patient co-payment for each PBS item

on that prescription. However, mandatory charges, such as any applicable brand premiums, must still be paid by the patient.

If a patient presents as an eligible PBS co-payment patient but does not have an CTG annotated prescription confirming their eligibility, the pharmacy will need to refer the patient back to the prescribing medical practitioner.

Who can annotate a CTG prescription?

Eligible patients can receive an annotated CTG prescription from any:

- medical practitioner working in a practice that is participating in the Indigenous Health Incentive under the PIP
- medical practitioner working in an Indigenous Health Service (IHS) in urban or rural areas
- any medical specialist as long as the patient is:
 - eligible for the measure
 - referred by a medical practitioner working in a practice participating in the Indigenous Health Incentive under the PIP.

Please note: hospital generated prescriptions will not be accepted. Medical specialists within public hospitals must use their personal PBS prescriptions.

More information about the CTG measure

To find out more about the Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure, refer to the Services Australia website:

- www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/closing-gap-pbs-co-payment-measure
- www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/topics/education-guide-closing-gap-pbs-co-payment-measure-supporting-indigenous-health/31811

Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.

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