

# Closing the Gap (CTG)

## Pharmacies and dispensing rural practices

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.

A patient is eligible if they:

- 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.

### CTG annotated prescriptions

Prescribers can grant the benefits of the CTG measure by annotating 'CTG' on a registered patient's prescription to indicate that the pharmacist or dispensing rural practice 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.

### Dispensing CTG annotated prescriptions

When you are processing a CTG annotated prescription, you must ensure that the CTG code is entered correctly into your dispensing software.

You can enter the CTG code in the following ways:

- If it is computer generated, enter the CTG alpha-numeric annotation code from the prescription.
- If it is handwritten, enter the CTG code of H, 00B or CTG00B, depending on your dispensing software.

Entering an invalid code will result in an incorrect calculation of the payment due from the patient for their prescription.

### 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 or dispensing rural practice will need to refer the patient back to the prescribing medical practitioner.

### 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](http://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](http://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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