



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing



CLOSING THE GAP  
tackling  
Indigenous  
chronic  
disease



# CLOSING THE GAP (CTG)

Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease  
PBS Co-payment Measure

Long Dang  
Program Manager  
[pbs-indigenous@health.gov.au](mailto:pbs-indigenous@health.gov.au)



## Contents

- Implementation Statistics
- Accessing “CTG” Prescriptions
- Medical Specialist
- Medicines Covered
- Authority Prescriptions
- Dose Administration Aids/QUMAX
- Pharmacists



## Implementation Statistics (as at February 2011)

- More than 1,900 general practices and Indigenous Health Services registered
- More than 52,500 patients are benefiting
- More than 380,000 “CTG” prescriptions dispensed
- More than 2,900 pharmacies are participating
- Uptake is highest in NSW with 41% of “CTG” prescriptions dispensed there followed by QLD (28%), VIC (11%), WA (9%) and SA (8%)
- Top 5 medicines dispensed were Atorvastatin, Metformin Hydrochloride, Perindopril, Salbutamol Sulfate, and Amoxicillin



## Accessing ‘CTG’ Annotated Prescriptions

- PIP accredited general practices and non-remote (urban or rural) Indigenous Health Services register through the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive
- Non-PIP accredited non-remote (urban or rural) Indigenous Health Services may register through the “Special Arrangements”
- Patients register once at the registered practice (PIP Indigenous Health Incentive requires re-registration)
- Patients may access “CTG” annotated prescriptions from any PBS prescriber working at a registered practice
- If the practice is not registered, patients will not be able to access “CTG” annotated prescriptions from that practice



## Medical Specialists

- Medical specialists may annotate a “CTG” prescription for an eligible patient when they are providing services for a registered Indigenous Health Service
- Medical specialists may also annotate a “CTG” prescription when treating a registered patient that has been referred to them by a GP from a registered practice



## Medicines Covered

- Medicines on the PBS regardless of whether it is for a chronic or acute condition (Section 85 medicines under the *National Health Act 1953*)
- Hospital prescriptions, Highly Specialised Drugs, and private prescriptions are not covered
- Brand premiums will need to be paid by the patient, where this applies it will be indicated with a superscript “B” on the PBS schedule
- Otherwise patients have a right to access the medications listed on the PBS at the more affordable rate
- General patients pay \$5.60 and concession card holders receive their medicines without making the patient co-payment



## Authority Prescriptions

- Authority prescriptions are covered under the “CTG” arrangements
- The prescriber must obtain the relevant approvals to prescribe the medicine under the PBS from Medicare Australia
- To be eligible under the “CTG” arrangements, the prescription must have the correct authority number and the “CTG” annotation



## Dose Administration Aids/QUMAX

- Dose Administration Aids (DAAs) such as Webster Packs are not covered under the “CTG” arrangements
- Under QUMAX, clients of participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) are able to access DAAs
- Such prescriptions will need to have the “blue” QUMAX stamp
- QUMAX stamped prescriptions can only be dispensed by a community pharmacy participating in the QUMAX program
- It is possible for the prescription to have the blue QUMAX stamp and be annotated with “CTG”



## Pharmacists

- Software updated with “CTG” dispensing functionality
- Are not asked to adjudicate on a patient or practices eligibility for the “CTG” arrangements
- Paid by Medicare Australia for every correctly annotated “CTG” prescription for a medicine on the PBS – no “CTG” annotated prescription, no payment.
- Pharmacists should be referred to the PBS Co-payment Measure Hotline on (02) 6289 2409 at first instance



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing

CLOSING THE GAP  
tackling  
Indigenous  
chronic  
disease

## Contact Details

Call: (02) 6289 2409 between 9am to 5pm (EDST), Mon – Fri

go to: [www.health.gov.au/tackling-chronic-disease](http://www.health.gov.au/tackling-chronic-disease)

email: [pbs-indigenous@health.gov.au](mailto:pbs-indigenous@health.gov.au)

write: PBS Co-payment Measure

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Mail Drop Point 901

GPO Box 9848

Canberra ACT 2601