




Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) – Opioid













Did you know?





Opioid PBS-subsidised authority approval medicines, can be requested in real-time through the Online PBS Authorities system (the system) for quantities and/or repeats that provide up to 3 months' treatment. This removes the need for you to call or submit a written application to Services Australia. The system makes it easier for you to request an authority approval from Services Australia by providing an immediate processing response, avoiding any postage delays and increased patient care.

Alternatively, you can request up to 1 months' treatment via telephone and up to 3 months' treatment if submitting your request in writing (either via Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) form upload or by post). Telephone authority requests seeking treatment beyond 1 month requests will not be approved.

To assist with the process, it is important to familiarise yourself with the relevant PBS restriction.

 request Authority Online	 request Authority by Telephone	 upload form via HPOS or post
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		Authority channels	
Medicines	Authority level for listed quantities and repeats	Increased quantities or repeats (1 month supply)	Increased quantities or repeats (3 months supply)
General Schedule			
- Codeine	Unrestricted benefit	<i>Online / Telephone:</i>  	<i>Online / Written:</i>  
- Codeine with paracetamol - Hydromorphone - Morphine - Oxycodone - Tramadol	Prescriptions for the listed quantity and repeats are restricted benefit	<i>Online / Telephone:</i>  	<i>Online / Written:</i>  
- Buprenorphine - Codeine - Fentanyl - Methadone - Oxycodone with naloxone - Tapentadol	Prescriptions for the listed quantities are Authority Required (STREAMLINED).	<i>Online / Telephone:</i>  	<i>Online / Written:</i>  

		Authority channels	
Medicines	Authority level for listed quantities and repeats	Increased quantities or repeats (1 month supply)	Increased quantities or repeats (3 months supply)
Palliative Care Schedule			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buprenorphine - Fentanyl - Hydromorphone - Methadone - Morphine - Oxycodone - Oxycodone with naloxone 	Prescriptions for the listed quantities are Authority Required (STREAMLINED).	Online / Telephone:  	Online / Written:  

Further information

Summary of PBS opioid listings for the treatment of pain as of 1 June 2020 are available on the [PBS.gov.au](https://www.pbs.gov.au) website.

For more information about the **Online PBS Authorities system** visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities

Services Australia has a broad range of educational resources on the **Health Professional Education Resources** website. This includes simulations, podcast and an infographic on the Online PBS Authorities system. Visit <https://hpe.servicesaustralia.gov.au/pharmaceutical-benefits-scheme.html>

If you require additional assistance or have any queries, please email authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au.

Changes to the PBS authority prescription post process from 1 July 2024

As of 1 July 2024, Services Australia no longer accepts original prescriptions. We only accept details of the proposed PBS prescription (and PDF form if required) when seeking PBS authority approval via the post. We won't record the Authority Approval Number on the prescription or forward approved prescriptions to the patient. Where applicable, please ensure you keep a copy of the written authority application form and provide only copies of pathology results.

It's important to note, any original prescriptions Services Australia receives via the post that are written after 1 July 2024 will be immediately returned to you. Services Australia will retain a copy of the prescription for processing.

Once processed, the assessment outcome will be sent to you via the post. If approved, you will need to endorse the original PBS authority prescription with the PBS Approval Number and PBS item code prior to providing to your patient with a completed authority prescription.

We're also updating PBS Authority prescription pads, the 'Tick for return to patient' checkbox will be removed. You can continue to use your residual stock as it will still be valid. Changes have also enabled an increase to the number of sheets per prescription pad, from 25 to 50 sheets. This will mean you can reduce the number of pads you will need to order each time.