

Accreditation of Community Prescribers - Highly Specialised Drugs for HIV, Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C

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Summary This policy outlines how a general practitioner or non-specialist hospital doctor may be accredited to prescribe Highly Specialised Drugs (HSDs) used in the treatment of HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Replaces Doc. No. Highly Specialised Drugs Program Funding Requirements - June 2008 [PD2008_036]
Community Prescribing of Highly Specialised Drugs for Hepatitis B [IB2013_016]

Author Branch Centre for Population Health

Branch contact Centre for Population Health 93919865

Applies to Local Health Districts, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, Public Health System Support Division, Community Health Centres, Ministry of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Audience Hospitals specialist staff, pharmacy departments, general practice

Distributed to Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, Ministry of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Tertiary Education Institutes

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Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

ACCREDITATION AND AUTHORISATION OF COMMUNITY PRESCRIBERS - HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS FOR THE TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV UNDER SECTION 100 OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH ACT 1953

PURPOSE

To detail the NSW Health policy requirements for the accreditation and authorisation of non-affiliated medical practitioners or nurse practitioners to prescribe Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) for the treatment of Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

HSDs are medicines for the treatment of conditions, which, because of their clinical use or other features, may generally only be prescribed by specialist medical practitioners affiliated with public or private hospitals with appropriate specialist facilities. As it is important that people living with HBV, HCV and HIV have access to high quality health care in primary care settings, the HSD Program also provides for non-affiliated medical practitioners and nurse practitioners to be accredited to prescribe HSDs used in the treatment of HBV, HCV and or HIV.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

A non-affiliated medical practitioner or nurse practitioner may only prescribe HSDs for HBV, HCV and HIV if they are authorised as a community prescriber as outlined in this policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

- 1 The Ministry of Health will appoint approved clinical authorities who will:
 - 1.1 Convene a Clinical Advisory Committee/s with sufficient specialist experience and knowledge to adjudicate applications for community prescribing accreditation in the areas of HBV, HCV and/or HIV.
 - 1.2 Recommend to the Ministry of Health applicants the Clinical Advisory Committee/s have assessed as having suitable grounding and experience for community prescribing with reference to any relevant clinical standards, treatment guidelines, models of care and government directives.
 - 1.3 Periodically adjudicate community prescribers' ongoing suitability for community prescribing accreditation, with reference to recent clinical practice, continuing professional development (CPD), and links with appropriate specialists and specialist treatment facilities.
 - 1.4 Annually, or on request, provide the Ministry of Health with a copy of the register of community prescribers who continue to be suitable for community prescribing accreditation in accordance with item 1.3. The register shall include at least the following fields: Title, First Name, Last Name, Practice Address, Post Code, Phone, Email, Provider Type, Affiliated Specialist and Specialist Treatment Facility.
 - 1.5 Maintain a register of accredited community prescribers.
- 2 The Ministry of Health is required to:
 - 2.1 Provide a mechanism for community prescriber and training programs that reflect relevant clinical standards, treatment guidelines, models of care and government directives.
 - 2.2 On the basis of recommendations made by an approved clinical authority (per items 1.2 and 1.4 above), authorise community prescribers to prescribe HSD.

- 2.3 Notify community prescriber applicants of the outcome of their applications.
 - 2.4 Oversight execution of a declaration that outlines the terms of the community prescriber program.
 - 2.5 Annually issue a list of authorised HBV, HCV and HIV community prescribers to NSW public hospital pharmacy departments.
- 3 Local Health Districts are required to:
- 3.1 Ensure that all HSD prescribing, dispensing and claiming is done in line with Commonwealth and State requirements for the HSD Program, including establishing appropriate audit processes.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
December 2013 PD2013_055	Deputy Director General, Population and Public Health	Replaces section 3.4 of PD2008-036 and IB2013_016. This PD also updates arrangements for accreditation of community providers to include Hepatitis B (HBV) community prescribing.
July 2008 PD2008_036	Director General	Updates to PD2008_007
January 2008 PD2008_007	Director General	Updates to PD2005_183
January 2005 PD2005_183	Director General	New policy

Accreditation and Authorisation of Community Prescribers – Highly Specialised Drugs for the Treatment of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV under Section 100 of the *National Health Act 1953*



Issue date: December-2013

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1 BACKGROUND

1.1 About this document

Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) are medicines for the treatment of conditions, which, because of their clinical use or other features, may generally only be prescribed by specialist medical practitioners affiliated with public or private hospitals with appropriate specialist facilities. As it is important that people living with HBV, HCV and HIV have access to high quality health care in primary care settings, the HSD Program also provides for non-specialist medical practitioners and nurse practitioners to be accredited to prescribe HSDs used in the treatment of HBV, HCV and or HIV for dispensing at a public hospital pharmacy department.

1.2 Key definitions

Affiliated medical practitioner: refers to a staff hospital specialist or visiting or consulting specialist of a hospital with HBV, HCV or HIV facilities.

Approved clinical authority: refers to a committee or organisation recognised by the Ministry of Health under this policy as having sufficient medical expertise to assess community prescribing accreditation applications.

Community prescriber: refers to a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner accredited and authorised to prescribe HSDs in accordance with this policy.

1.3 Legal and legislative framework

The HSD Program is a joint initiative of the Australian Government and the states and territory governments. The Program operates under section 100 of the *National Health Act 1953* (Cth). Section 100 allows for special arrangements to be made for the supply of drugs that, because of their clinical use or other special features, are restricted to supply through public and private hospitals that have appropriate specialist facilities.

A medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, who is not affiliated with an appropriate specialist unit at a public or private hospital, may only prescribe HSDs with the approval of the state or territory.

Patients must be under appropriate medical care. They must also be an eligible person under the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (Cth). An eligible person must be:

- an Australian resident
- a person covered by a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement, or
- an eligible overseas representative.

2 PRESCRIBING

2.1 HSD Prescribing for HBV, HCV or HIV Medications

The following persons are eligible to prescribe HSDs for HBV, HCV or HIV treatment for dispensing at a public hospital pharmacy department:

- 2.1.1. A visiting or consulting hospital medical specialist practitioner affiliated with a recognised specialist treatment facility

- 2.1.2 An accredited community prescriber authorised by the Ministry of Health to prescribe HBV medication as outlined in Section 2.2 of this policy
- 2.1.3 An accredited community prescriber authorised by the Ministry of Health to prescribe HCV medication as outlined in Section 2.3 of this policy
- 2.1.4 An accredited community prescriber authorised by the Ministry of Health to prescribe oral HIV medication as outlined in Section 2.4 of this policy
- 2.1.5 A hospital medical practitioner or community general practitioner in exceptional situations where it is impractical to obtain a prescription for HBV, HBC or HIV medication from the treating specialist and where that specialist medical practitioner has provided written agreement for the prescription to be issued.

2.2 HBV Community Prescribing (Shared Care)

Authorisation to prescribe maintenance drug treatment for HBV may be granted on an individual basis by the Ministry of Health to non-affiliated medical practitioners or nurse practitioners where the approved clinical authority is satisfied:

- 2.2.1 The applicant has:
 - a) completed appropriate training and assessment requirements
 - b) demonstrated equivalent prior experience
 - c) current authorisation as a HBV community prescriber by another Australian State or Territory participating in the HSD Program
- 2.2.2 The applicant demonstrates preparedness to participate in relevant continuing professional development (CPD)
- 2.2.3 There is evidence of an agreement to participate in shared care with a treating specialist associated with a recognised hospital viral hepatitis treatment facility. The applicant and his/her patients have full and timely access to the services of a nominated public hospital viral hepatitis treatment facility.

2.3 HCV Community Prescribing (Shared Care)

Authorisation to prescribe maintenance drug treatment for HCV may be granted on an individual basis by the Ministry of Health to non-affiliated medical practitioners or nurse practitioners where the approved clinical authority is satisfied:

- 2.3.1 The applicant has:
 - a) completed appropriate training and assessment requirements
 - b) demonstrated equivalent prior experience
 - c) current authorisation as a HCV community prescriber by another Australian State or Territory participating in the HSD Program
- 2.3.2 The applicant demonstrates preparedness to participate in relevant CPD
- 2.3.3 There is evidence of an agreement to participate in shared care with a treating specialist affiliated with a recognised hospital viral hepatitis treatment facility
- 2.3.4 The applicant and his/her patients have full and timely access to the services of a nominated public hospital viral hepatitis treatment facility.

2.4 HIV Community Prescribing

Authorisation to prescribe oral agents for the treatment of HIV other than by specialists may be granted on an individual basis by the Ministry of Health to non-affiliated medical practitioners or nurse practitioners where the approved clinical authority is satisfied:

2.4.1 The applicant has:

- a) completed appropriate training and assessment requirements
- b) demonstrated equivalent prior experience
- c) current authorisation as an HIV community prescriber by another Australian State or Territory participating in the HSD Program

2.4.2 The applicant demonstrates preparedness to participate in relevant CPD

2.4.3 The applicant can demonstrate an established link with a specialist in HIV, located within a recognised specialist HIV treatment facility approved by the Ministry of Health.

3 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on training courses, eligibility criteria and application procedures are available from approved clinical authorities. At the time of publication, the approved clinical authority for HBV, HCV and HIV community prescribing is:

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)
Locked Mail Bag 5057
DARLINGHURST NSW 1300
Telephone: (02) 8204 0700
Facsimile: (02) 9212 2382
ashm.org.au

Further information about the HSD Program is available from Medicare Australia at: medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/pbs/highly-specialised-drugs/