



Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-payment Program Changes

The Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment program was established in July 2010 to improve access to affordable PBS medicines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with, or at risk of, chronic disease.

From 1 July 2021, it will be easier for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access medicines through the CTG PBS Co-payment program.

The following will change:

- If you are eligible for the program any PBS prescriber or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner will be able to register you.
- If you are an eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person you can be registered for the program no matter where you live within Australia, and regardless of your chronic disease status.
- This registration will cover you even if you move to a different health clinic within Australia.
- If you are unsure if you are registered for the program, your PBS prescriber, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner or Pharmacist will be able to check online for you.
- PBS prescriptions for medicines covered under the program will no longer need to be annotated with CTG by the prescriber to be eligible for a reduced co-payment.

Please note:

- A new centralised patient registration database for the program, managed by Services Australia, will go live on 1 July 2021. Your current registration details will be transferred to the new database.
- Your CTG scripts will need to be taken to a community pharmacy or approved private hospital pharmacy to be dispensed under the program. Your CTG scripts are not able to be dispensed by a public hospital pharmacy.
- To find out more about the CTG program, please talk to your PBS prescriber or your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner.

