

PBS Authorities – Recent changes when requesting PBS authority approval for stimulants

Due to an amendment to the PBS listing for stimulants from 1 June 2025 to include nurse practitioners as eligible prescribers where they are continuing treatment initiated by a medical practitioner, the questions and answers asked when seeking a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) authority approval for stimulants have changed. Services Australia is required to ensure the patient meets all aspects of the restriction. This includes confirming the type of health practitioner who is treating the patient.

We understand having access to PBS-subsidised medicines can be critical to patient care. That's why Services Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing have been working together to increase the number of PBS medicines that can be requested and approved using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system). This includes PBS authority approval for treatment using stimulants.

Using the system makes it easier for you to request authority approval for these medicines from Services Australia. You no longer need to call to request authority approval. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally.

Important Information

PBS Authorities items criteria

Under the PBS, medicines are made available based on recommendations from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). Patients must meet the set criteria to be eligible for PBS-subsidised medicines. Services Australia are unable to provide approval for an Authority Required medication where a patient does not meet the criteria established by PBAC.

If you have concerns or questions about the eligibility criteria set by PBAC, you can contact the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing by email at pbs@health.gov.au.

Ensuring you are providing accurate data

It's important to ensure you are providing accurate and up to date information when completing an authority application. Failure to do so may result in your authority request being rejected.

More information

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 an infographic on the Online PBS Authorities system, simulations and the recently published PBS Authorities Podcast – Part 2.

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.