



How to register to provide services through the Opioid Dependence Treatment Community Pharmacy Program

Factsheet for pharmacies

Overview

This factsheet provides information and resources for community pharmacies wishing to start offering opioid dependence treatment services.

Why should I register for the Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Community Pharmacy Program?

The Australian Government is committed to reducing costs and improving access to ODT. The ongoing work pharmacists do to contribute to the healthcare of Australians and the important work they are continuing to do for their ODT patients is well recognised. The ODT policy changes made by the Department are designed to support community pharmacies who are or wish to participate in this important space of practice.

This policy is already making a life changing difference to patients who no longer have to pay private dispensing and dosing fees to access their ODT medicines.

ODT changes

From 1 July 2023, ODT medicines became part of the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program (Community Access) arrangements and a new ODT Community Pharmacy Program was established that provides nationally consistent payment arrangements for ODT services delivered through community pharmacies.

The changes have been primarily informed as a result of the [Post-Market Review](#) (PMR) of ODT medicines and aim to greatly improve the lives of people receiving ODT by addressing long standing patient equity and affordability issues.

ODT Community Pharmacy Program

The ODT Community Pharmacy Program aims to improve access to and affordability of ODT within the community pharmacy sector, by supporting the delivery of pharmacy services for people in treatment programs for opioid dependence.

The [ODT Community Pharmacy Program](#) will allow participating Section 90 pharmacies to submit claims for staged supply of eligible oral/sublingual and long acting injectable ODT medications (noting that the administration of injectables is dependent on relevant State/Territory regulations).

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

ODT medicines are now part of the Section 100 [Highly Specialised Drugs \(HSD\) Program](#) (Community Access) arrangements. This means the way ODT medicines are ordered, dispensed and remunerated will align with other community access Section 100 HSD Program medicines from [section 90 approved community pharmacies](#).

Under the Section 100 HSD Program, PBS-eligible patients pay the [PBS co-payment](#) to access their treatment and the amount paid will contribute towards their PBS Safety Net threshold.

ODT medicines supplied under the PBS can only be dispensed from a PBS Approved Supplier. PBS Approved Suppliers are section 90 approved community pharmacies, section 92 approved medical practitioners, and section 94 approved hospital authorities (public and private). PBS ODT medicines can only be supplied from premises that are approved premises for the PBS Approved Supplier and cannot be dispensed from any other site.

Further information about ODT medicines and the PBS, including factsheets is available on the [PBS website](#).

What is opioid dependence?

Opioid dependence is a chronic, relapsing condition with periods of active use, abstinence, and relapse which can occur for many years and is associated with high rates of morbidity and mortality.

Opioid drugs can be prescription pain medicines (such as codeine and oxycodone) or illicit drugs (such as heroin).

Available treatment

Treatment for opioid dependence may involve behavioural therapies, medicines, or a combination of approaches. Opioid pharmacotherapy is one of the most common treatments and involves replacing the opioid drug of dependence with a longer-lasting, medically-prescribed opioid.

ODT medicines currently listed on the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits (the PBS Schedule) include:

- methadone oral liquid
- buprenorphine sublingual tablets
- buprenorphine + naloxone sublingual films
- long-acting injectable buprenorphine products

What do I need to do to claim for ODT services?

To be eligible to participate in the ODT Community Pharmacy Program, a pharmacy will need to be a PBS Approved Supplier. This means your pharmacy will need to:

1. Be approved to dispense pharmaceutical benefits as part of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) defined in Section 90 of the *National Health Act 1953* (Section 90 Pharmacy)

2. Meet your relevant State/Territory requirements to be able to dispense/supply/administer the relevant ODT medications to patients (please note, there are no approvals required in Queensland for pharmacies to supply ODT medicines)
3. Register with the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA)

How do I register?

1. PBS

If your pharmacy is not a PBS approved supplier, you can apply via the [PBS Approved Suppliers Portal](#).

The [Information for pharmacists](#) factsheet provides further information.

2. State and territory requirements

States and territories regulate the prescribing and supply of ODT medicines under relevant drugs and poisons legislation and some jurisdictions authorise dosing points for participation in jurisdictional ODT programs (please note, authorisations are not required in Queensland).

If your pharmacy is currently approved to provide ODT services, you will be aware of the policies, guidelines and regulations that govern service provision within your jurisdiction and can simply register with the PPA to participate in the ODT Community Pharmacy Program.

If you are not currently approved to deliver ODT services within your state or territory, the table below provides information and links regarding the requirements and registration process to become an approved dosing site within your jurisdiction.

[Australian Capital Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[New South Wales](#)

[Western Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Victoria](#)

[South Australia](#)

Australian Capital Territory

[Opioid Maintenance Treatment \(OMT\) Program](#)

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
Pharmacists must be licenced.	Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008	Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008

<p>Apply for an Opioid Dependency Treatment Centre Licence (Pharmacist).</p>	<p>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008</p> <p>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Guidelines for treatment of opioid dependency) Approval 2018</p> <p>National guidelines for medication-assisted treatment of opioid dependence</p> <p>Opioid Maintenance Treatment in the ACT: Local Policies and Procedures</p>	<p>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008</p>
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For further assistance in the Australian Capital Territory

ODT licences: Pharmaceutical Services,
Health Protection Service (HPS)
P: [02 5124 9208](tel:0251249208) or E: hps@act.gov.au

Pharmacist training
E: pharmacyreception@act.gov.au

Queensland

[Queensland Opioid Treatment Program](#)

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
<p>Any pharmacy can dispense ODT medicines in Queensland – no regulatory approval is required from Queensland Health.</p> <p>Pharmacies should provide their details to be listed on the Queensland health clinical database CIMHA. Contact CIMHA@health.qld.gov.au</p>	<p>Medicines and Poisons Act 2019</p> <p>Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021</p> <p>Queensland Opioid Dependence Treatment Guidelines 2023</p> <p>QOTP: A guide to key legislative requirements under the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019</p>	<p>Queensland Health Departmental Standard Secure storage of S8 medicines</p>

For further assistance in Queensland

E: QOTP@health.qld.gov.au

New South Wales

NSW Opioid Treatment Program

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
<p>Pharmacies must be registered with the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Apply to Become a Registered Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Dosing Point</p>	<p>NSW Clinical Guidelines: Treatment of Opioid Dependence – 2018</p> <p>Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 No 31</p> <p>Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008</p> <p>Opioid Treatment Program – Transition to Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program</p> <p>Opioid Treatment Education for Health Professionals in NSW – OTAC</p>	<p>Storage in Pharmacy</p> <p>Guide to Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Legislation for Pharmacists (TG79)</p> <p>Storage Generally</p> <p>Storage in hospital wards</p> <p>Storage in private correctional centres</p>

For further assistance in New South Wales

Drug & Alcohol Specialist Advisory Service - [DASAS](#)

[SafeScript Clinical Advice Line - SCAL](#)

Western Australia

Community Pharmacotherapy Program (CPOP)

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
<p>An application must be made for a pharmacy to participate in the CPOP</p> <p>Pharmacists must complete the on-line training program Community</p>	<p>Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016</p> <p>Opioids, benzodiazepines and other Schedule 8 medicines</p>	<p>Storage of medicines and poisons</p>

Pharmacotherapy Program (CPP)	Information for pharmacists about Opioid Substitution Therapy	
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For further assistance in Western Australia

Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch
E: MPRB@health.wa.gov.au
P: 08 9222 6812

24/7 CPOP Advice and Support line (for health professionals only)
P: 08 9442 5042

Community Pharmacotherapy Program (CPP)
E: CPPAdmin@mhc.wa.gov.au
P: 08 9219 1907 OR 08 9219 1913

CPP training support
E: CPOPTraining@mhc.wa.gov.au
P: 08 9219 1896

Tasmania

Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
For pharmacists located in Tasmania, additional reimbursements can be attained from the State. Please contact ADS Pharmacy on 03 6166 0805 or email adspharmacy@ths.tas.gov.au	Tasmanian Poisons Act 1971 and Poisons Regulations 2018 Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program - Policy and Clinical Practice Standards 2012	Tasmanian Poisons Act 1971 and Poisons Regulations 2018

For further assistance in Tasmania

ADS Pharmacy for more information
E: adspharmacy@ths.tas.gov.au P: 03 6166 0805

Northern Territory

Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
A pharmacy must meet the Pharmacy Premises Standards For more information email poisonscontrol@nt.gov.au Or call 08 8922 7341	Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 Schedule 8 Substances Code of Practice .	Medicines and Poisons storage

For further assistance in the Northern Territory

Top End Alcohol and other Drug Services

E: AODTEHS.DoH@nt.gov.au

P: 08 8922 8399

Alcohol and other Drugs Services Central Australia (ADSCA) –

E: ADSCAClinic.CAHS@nt.gov.au

P: 08 8951 7580

Victoria

Pharmacotherapy policy in Victoria

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
<p>A pharmacy that wishes to provide ODT services must apply for approval to supply ODT medicines by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complete the form Pharmacy application for approval to supply pharmacotherapies in Victoria2. Complete the form Pharmacotherapy self-assessment: for pharmacists providing opioid-replacement therapy (if you require assistance with any aspect of these forms, please contact your local Pharmacotherapy Area Based Network).3. Submit both forms to pharmacotherapy@health.vic.gov.au	<p>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 and the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulation 2017</p> <p>Pharmacotherapy Area Based Networks</p>	<p>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017</p>

For further assistance in Victoria

[Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch](#)

E: dpcs@health.vic.gov.au

[Mental Health & AOD System](#)

[Management](#)

E: pharmacotherapy@health.vic.gov.au

South Australia

[Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence \(MATOD\)](#)

[Community Pharmacy MATOD Program](#)

How to register to become an ODT dosing site	Helpful references and legislation	Requirements for storage and handling of S8 medicines
<p>A pharmacy must meet all registration requirements under the Pharmacy Regulation Authority SA (PRASA).</p> <p>Complete the MATOD authority application form</p>	<p>Controlled Substances Act 1984</p> <p>Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011</p> <p>MATOD regulatory information and resources</p> <p>Community MATOD education and training</p>	<p>Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Drugs of Dependence 2012</p>

3. PPA

Pharmacies will need to register with the PPA so they can submit claims for payment for services provided under the ODT Community Pharmacy Program. You can also review the [ODT Community Pharmacy Program webpage](#) to find out more about the program.

If your pharmacy has a PPA Portal Service Provider account, all you need to do is register within the portal to participate in the program.

Pharmacies who are not registered with PPA, can utilise the [User Guide](#) to create an account for their pharmacy on the Portal (pages 1-17).

The [ODT Community Pharmacy Program Rules](#) include information about service provider and patient eligibility and claiming and payment.

The [ODT portal user guide](#) provides a step-by-step process of how to register and make claims.

Further assistance with using the PPA Portal is available through the Support Centre on 1800 951 285 or email support@ppaonline.com.au.

Available Software

Claims for payment can be uploaded to the PPA Portal either manually or by using appropriate software. Several software providers have integrated with the ODT Community Pharmacy Program. PPA continues to work with interested software vendors to integrate their software with the program which means pharmacies may be able to lodge their claims through existing software.

My Health Record (MHR)

ODT medicines dispensed on the PBS will appear on a patient's MHR. This is a change to earlier practice, as previously ODT medicines were dispensed as a private prescription.

As MHR is a consumer-controlled system, patients can manage their important information and can control who has access to it.

Instructions on how patients can control and restrict access to their information is outlined in the [ODT Medicines FAQs](#).

ODT claiming and payments

Pharmacists can now claim reimbursement for the cost of the medicine, the PBS fees and ODT Community Pharmacy Program payments under the new PBS ODT medicine arrangements.

PBS dispensing fees

As part of the PBS claim, pharmacists receive reimbursement from the Commonwealth through claims for payment which are submitted to Services Australia. Remuneration for HSD medicines (including ODT medicines) includes: the normal PBS ready-prepared dispensing fee and the dangerous drug fee. These fees are indexed annually on 1 July, see [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | Fees & Patient Contributions](#) for current fees, plus a Section 100 mark-up ascertained as follows:

- 10% for drugs with an ex-manufacturer price of less than \$40
- \$4 for drugs with an ex-manufacturer price of between \$40 and \$100
- 4% for drugs with an ex-manufacturer price of between \$100.01 and \$1000
- \$40 for drugs with an ex-manufacturer price of greater than \$1000

Community Pharmacy Program claims

In addition, the ODT Community Pharmacy Program will pay for services due to the additional work pharmacists do preparing doses for supervised or takeaway dosing and administering injections.

Registered Service Providers can claim the following ODT Staged Supply and Buprenorphine Injection Administration Service payments under the Program. These payments are GST Exempt.

Table 1: ODT Staged Supply Services include ODT doses administered to patients in-pharmacy and as take-home doses.

Description	Fee
Provision of ODT Staged Supply Service (per dosing day, per patient):	
Dose management fee (staged supply fee)	\$4.69
Consumable allowance fee	\$0.97
Total fee (per dosing day)	\$5.66

Table 2: Injection administration fee.

Description	Fee
In-pharmacy administration of ODT Injection Service	\$22.15

Further details are outlined in the ODT medicines - overview [factsheet](#).

Additional resources

The Post Market Review Report is provided in two parts:

- [Executive Summary and Review Outcomes \(PDF 414KB\) - \(Word 78KB\)](#)
- [Report for the PMR of ODTP medicines \(PDF 2.9MB\) - \(Word 2.4MB\)](#)

Pharmacy Programs Administrator websites

[ODT Community Pharmacy Program](#)

[Program Rules](#)

[User Guide](#)

Department of Health and Aged Care

[PBS website](#)

[ODT medicines - information for community and hospital pharmacists](#)

[ODT FAQs](#)

Pre-recorded webinars:

- Department of Health and Aged Care ODT – [session for pharmacists](#)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia - [Navigating changes to the VIC Pharmacotherapy Program](#)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia – [Navigating changes to the NSW Opioid Treatment Program](#)