Opioid dependence treatment medicines - transitional arrangements for private clinics and non-PBS dosing sites

## Overview

As of 1 July 2023, patients access the [opioid dependence treatment (ODT) medicines](https://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/section100-md) they need on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) through PBS approved pharmacies under the [Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program (Community Access) arrangements](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/community-access-for-highly-specialised-drugs?context=23411).

All existing clinics continue to be able to treat and provide clinical services to patients if authorised by states and territories, including services rebated under the Medicare Benefits Schedule. PBS prescribers (medical practitioners and nurse practitioners) can prescribe ODT medicines, but they cannot dispense medicines under the PBS Section 100 HSD Program. Under the *National Health Act 1953*, only approved pharmacies can dispense PBS medicines.

## Transitional arrangements

The ODT transitional arrangements ended on 30 June 2024 and all Australian Government subsidised ODT medicines are supplied through the PBS.

The Australian Government continued to pay pharmaceutical companies directly for ODT medicines supplied to authorised private ODT clinics and other non-PBS dosing sites (including GP clinics) for a transition period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

During this time private clinics and non-PBS dosing sites authorised by their state or territory could continue to order directly from the pharmaceutical wholesaler/distributor and receive stock at no cost as long as the stock was supplied on or before 30 June 2024.

These transitional arrangements allowed state and territory governments time to work with non-PBS dosing sites to transition patients to a PBS approved community pharmacy or make other arrangements.

These transitional arrangements did not apply to PBS approved community or hospital pharmacies who must supply ODT medicines to their patients under the PBS arrangements.