Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee
Outcome Statement 5th of June 2026

The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) held its 118th meeting on 5 June 2026.

DUSC has a national focus of excellence in collecting, analysing and interpreting data on the utilisation of medicines in Australia for use by the PBAC. Review of the utilisation of medicines is an essential management tool in facilitating the objectives of the National Medicines Policy.

The PBAC is also committed to understanding consumer perspectives and integrating them into consideration of medicines and vaccines. Consumers are able to provide their views about medicine utilisation reviews to the PBAC via the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) consultation hub.

Submissions to the PBAC

A joint DUSC and Economics Sub-Committee meeting was held on 4 June 2026 to consider 1 category 1 submission, 4 category 2 submissions, 1 category 3 submission and 1 standard re-entry resubmission. These submissions will be considered at the July 2026 meeting of PBAC. The agenda for the July 2026 PBAC meeting can be found on the PBS website. DUSC provided detailed advice to the PBAC on projected usage and financial cost for the submissions where there was high cost, uncertain utilisation, first medicine in class or quality use of medicines concerns.

Utilisation of PBS Listed Medicines

DUSC regularly examines utilisation of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) items when there is at least 24 months of prescription data available and where DUSC or the PBAC has highlighted items of interest. When an analysis of utilisation is to be undertaken sponsors are notified and provided with a copy of the report and an opportunity to comment prior to the DUSC meeting. Reviews to be considered by the PBAC are also published in the PBAC meeting agenda. All reports, sponsor comments and DUSC assessment of the reports are subsequently provided to the PBAC. DUSC welcomed an enthusiastic discussion on a range of consumer inputs to inform analysis and support explanations of patterns in utilisation and dispensing trends.

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of the following PBS medicines in June 2026:

Antivirals for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection

DUSC reviewed the utilisation of oral COVID-19 antivirals for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection. DUSC noted the overall utilisation of COVID-19 oral antivirals has been decreasing. DUSC noted molnupiravir has accounted for most of the COVID-19 oral antiviral market. DUSC noted the restriction change of molnupiravir in March 2024, where treatment was restricted to people who are contraindicated to nirmatrelvir (&) ritonavir. DUSC noted molnupiravir has accounted for 52% of the market in the first quarter of 2026. DUSC noted among the population groups eligible for COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment, patients aged 70 years and older account for the majority of utilisation.

Enfortumab vedotin for locally advanced (Stage III) or metastatic (Stage IV) urothelial cancer
DUSC reviewed enfortumab vedotin for locally advanced (Stage III) or metastatic (Stage IV) urothelial cancer. DUSC noted the number of treated patients and prescriptions supplied have plateaued. DUSC noted the patient demographics appear to match epidemiology of urothelial cancer, with median age of patients initiating treatment of 71 years and males accounting for the majority of utilisation.

Pembrolizumab for stage II or stage III and recurrent, unresectable or metastatic triple negative breast cancer
DUSC reviewed the utilisation of pembrolizumab for stage II or stage III (early-stage) triple negative breast cancer (eTNBC) and recurrent, unresectable or metastatic (metastatic) triple negative breast cancer (mTNBC). DUSC noted that the treatment uptake of pembrolizumab for both mTNBC and eTNBC has plateaued, and that the introduction of olaparib for both eTNBC and mTNBC has not had an appreciable impact on pembrolizumab treatment rates for either eTNBC or mTNBC. DUSC noted input from consumers indicated that side effects did not appear to be a major concern, although neutropenia and a rare incidence of pembrolizumab causing Type 1 Diabetes were mentioned.

DUSC requested that the utilisation reports be provided to the PBAC for consideration.

An outcome statement will be available following each meeting of DUSC. For further information, please contact the DUSC Secretariat at DUSC@health.gov.au.

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Chair
Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee