



Learn more about Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC) reviews

The term ‘consumer’ includes patients, carers, family members, consumer organisations and community members with experience of a health condition or medicine.

What is DUSC?

The [Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee \(PBAC\)](#) is an independent committee. It advises the Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing about which medicines should be funded by the government through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The PBS helps people access medicines at a lower cost.

The [Drug Utilisation Sub Committee \(DUSC\)](#) is a subcommittee of the PBAC. DUSC provides information and advice to help the PBAC understand how medicines are expected to be used if they are listed on the PBS, and how they are actually used after they are listed.

What does DUSC do?

DUSC does not decide if a medicine should be listed on the PBS. Its role is to provide information and advice to the PBAC.

DUSC supports the PBAC in two main ways:

1. *Advice on Estimated Use and Cost* – Before a medicine is listed on the PBS, the PBAC may ask DUSC for advice about how the medicine is expected to be used including:
 - how many people are likely to use the medicine
 - how many prescriptions may be dispensed
 - how much budget the government will need to fund it.
2. *Review of Real World Use* – After a medicine has been listed on the PBS for at least two years, DUSC collects and reviews information about how a medicine is actually being used in practice. This may include looking at whether:
 - the medicine is being used by the group of people it was intended for
 - more or fewer people are using the medicine than expected
 - the medicine is being used for longer or shorter periods, or at a higher or lower doses than expected

- health professionals or consumers need more education about how to use the medicine
- consumers are having problems such as difficulty getting the medicine, serious side effects, or poor treatment results
- another review of the medicine's use is needed in the future.

How can consumers be involved in DUSC reviews?

There are different ways consumers and consumer organisations can help DUSC, depending on the type of review.

When DUSC reviews how a medicine or group of medicines are being used after PBS listing, relevant consumer organisations may be invited to share views about the medicine(s) from people in their patient networks. Providing this input is optional. Consumer organisations are not expected to speak for every person with a condition, but they can help DUSC understand common experiences, emerging issues and any concerns.

How does consumer input help DUSC?

Consumer input helps DUSC understand how a medicine or group of medicines are being used in everyday life.

Clinical studies and PBS data can show important information about a medicine. Consumer input can add to this by explaining what the medicine means for people who use it. This helps build a better understanding of a medicine's overall value. Consumer input is most helpful when it clearly explains the issue, who is affected, and why it matters. It can include personal experiences, feedback gathered from a patient community, survey findings, or case studies.

Examples of consumer input that may help DUSC include views on:

- how well the medicine works, or may work, compared with existing medicines for the health condition. For example, if the medicine improved symptoms or reduced care needs.
- side effects people may have had and how serious they were. For example, people may have needed extra medicines or hospital care to manage them.
- whether the medicine was difficult to take, or if people stopped taking a medicine and why.
- how the medicine affects quality of life, such as mobility, independent living, returning to work or school, or reducing the impact on family and carers.
- whether the medicine is easy or difficult to access. For example, people in rural areas may need to travel to a specialist or regional hospital, which can create practical and financial pressures.

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What happens after a DUSC review?

DUSC gives its reviews to the PBAC and publishes a DUSC [Outcomes Statement](#). The statement shows how many medicines were assessed for *Estimated Use and Cost* and the medicines reviewed for *Real World Use*.

The PBAC uses DUSC reviews to understand how PBS medicines are used in everyday practice, and whether this matches with how they were expected to be used when they were first listed.

DUSC also publishes its *Real World Use* reviews [as DUSC Utilisation Analysis Public Release Documents](#). You can search these by health condition, medicine, medicine group, or the meeting where they were considered.

These public documents help explain what was reviewed and the issues that were considered.

Where to find more information

- [About the PBS | Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\)](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee \(PBAC\) Membership | Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\)](#)
- [Drug Utilisation Sub Committee \(DUSC\) | Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\)](#)
- [Drug Utilisation Sub Committee \(DUSC\) Outcome Statements | Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\)](#)
- [DUSC Utilisation Analysis Public Release Documents | Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\)](#)