

Our ref H23/6785

Dear Colleague,

NSW Health Section 100 Co-payment Program and patient consent form

I am writing to advise an updated information bulletin has been published for the NSW Health Section 100 (s100) Co-payment Program and the patient consent form expiry period has been extended.

NSW Health pays patient co-payments for s100 drugs and medicines to help ease the financial burden for people with cancer and other chronic conditions. This includes medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) under the [s100 Highly Specialised Drugs Program](#) (Public Hospital and Community Access schedules), and injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines on the PBS [s100 Efficient Funding for Chemotherapy](#) (Public Hospital) schedule. Eligible patients must provide consent for NSW Health to make s100 co-payments on their behalf.

NSW Health updated the [s100 Co-payment Program information bulletin](#) in December 2022. This update is to provide clarity on application of the policy only, and does not impact patient eligibility.

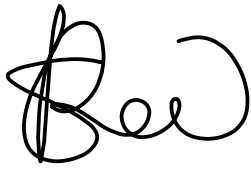
In response to feedback received from consumers, the patient consent form expiry period has been extended to three years. From 1 January 2023 the [3 Year Patient Consent Form](#) for s100 Highly Specialised Drugs can be used, replacing the previous 12 month patient consent form. Existing 12 month patient consent forms can continue to be used and remain valid until their renewal period expires. By extending the consent form renewal period to three years, we hope to reduce administrative burden and improve patient and clinician experience.

NSW community and public hospital pharmacists must sight the completed patient consent form to check it is valid and the details match the prescription.

A frequently asked questions document that addresses some common questions about the s100 Co-payment Program is attached. For more information about eligibility, consent and privacy of health information, please visit the [s100 Co-payment Program website](#). Factsheets for patients, medical practitioners and prescribers are also available from the website.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact us at nswh-s100copayment@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Reid', with a large loop at the end.

Samantha Reid
A/Director, Strategic Change and Communications
Strategic Reform and Planning Branch
NSW Ministry of Health

31/01/2023

Encl.

1. Frequently asked questions

Frequently asked questions

Consent form

1. Can the 12 month patient consent form still be used after 1 January 2023?

Yes, all completed and valid 12 Month Patient Consent Forms can be used until their renewal period expires. After 1 January 2023, [eligible patients](#) should have a 3 Year Patient Consent Form completed by their prescriber as their existing form nears the renewal date.

2. Do I need to use the 3 Year Patient Consent Form for Section 100 (s100) injectable and infusible chemotherapy?

No, the [3 Year Patient Consent Form](#) is only required for patients prescribed s100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSDs). Patients prescribed s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicine may sign a local pharmacy consent form when their prescription is filled through a pharmacy used by NSW public hospital oncology services.

3. Can the 3 Year Patient Consent Form be photographed and shown digitally, such as on a mobile phone?

Yes, the patient can present a photograph of their signed consent form with their prescription. All items of the consent form must be fully legible.

4. Do pharmacies need to store or keep a copy of the patient consent form?

No, there is no requirement for NSW community or public hospital pharmacies to store or make copies of the 3 Year Patient Consent Form for the NSW Section 100 Co-payment Program.

The patient is responsible for maintaining their consent form, including presenting it each time they have their prescription/s and any repeats dispensed at a NSW public hospital pharmacy or NSW community pharmacy. Any storage, auditing or archiving of patient consent forms is at the discretion of the health district, facility or pharmacy, in conjunction with the patient.

Patients

5. Am I eligible to have my co-payment paid by NSW Health if my s100 HSDs are prescribed by a private hospital prescriber and dispensed from a public hospital pharmacy?

No, the commitment only applies to patients prescribed s100 HSDs by NSW public hospitals prescribers or authorised community prescribers.

6. I have a healthcare card. Do I have to pay the co-payment?

Patients who are charged the concessional PBS co-payment rate and meet the s100 Co-payment Program eligibility criteria will have their co-payments paid by NSW Health on their behalf for relevant medicines. Existing arrangements for NSW patients who hold a Commonwealth healthcare card for all other medicines are not affected by this change.

7. Will co-payments paid by NSW Health count towards the patient safety net?

Yes. Co-payments paid by NSW Health count towards the PBS patient safety net.

Pharmacies

8. How can NSW community pharmacies participate in the s100 Co-payment Program?

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia manages s100 HSD co-payment claims and reimbursements to community pharmacies. Community pharmacies must register with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia online portal to submit s100 co-payment claims and receive re-imbursement from NSW Health. You do not need to be a member of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to register.

In addition to the cost of the co-payment for eligible patients, pharmacies are paid a service fee for the work associated with submitting claims on behalf of patients. The fees are \$2.23 (incl GST) for each co-payment claimed and a one off monthly administration fee of \$13.42 (incl GST) for the first claim made each month.

Information on how to submit claims for the s100 Co-payment Program is available at:
<https://www.guild.org.au/guild-branches/nsw/professional-services/nsw-s100-hsd-co-payment>

9. How are community pharmacists reimbursed for the patient co-payment?

Community pharmacies submit eligible patient co-payment claims for re-imbursement to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia via their online portal. The Pharmacy Guild processes claims and reimburses pharmacists for each eligible patient co-payment and invoices NSW Health accordingly.

This arrangement ensures pharmacists can comply with the *National Health Act 1953*, which requires community pharmacists to charge the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment for s100 HSDs. This also ensures that eligible patients can access s100 HSDs from community pharmacies, without having to pay the co-payment. Different rules for charging co-payments apply to public hospital pharmacies.

10. How are NSW public hospitals reimbursed for the patient co-payment?

NSW public hospitals are reimbursed for eligible patient co-payments based on iPharmacy reports submitted to the NSW Ministry of Health.

More information

More information about the s100 Co-payment Program is available at
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/s100copay/Pages/default.aspx>

NSW s100 co-payment enquires can be emailed to: NSWH-s100CoPayment@health.nsw.gov.au