



Background

From 1 February 2021, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Repatriation PBS (RPBS) prescriptions are required to include medicine's active ingredient name(s), except for:

- Handwritten prescriptions and medication charts
- Paper based medication charts in the residential aged care setting
- Prescriptions generated using a 'free-text' function in prescribing software and identified as such.
- Prescriptions for medicines with four or more active ingredients
- Other items as determined by the Secretary.

Prescribers are still able to choose a specific brand of medicine for their patient and can include brand names on prescriptions wherever clinically necessary for their patient. If a brand name is included on a prescription, the active ingredient will appear first.

To ensure consumer access to PBS/RPBS subsidised medicines during the transition, and to support pharmacies, the Department of Health agreed to a six-month grace period for pharmacy that ends on 31 July 2021.

Active Ingredient Prescribing (AIP) is part of a wider government initiative to ensure consistent and standardised medicines information to support safe and appropriate use of medicines. Active ingredients must now prominently appear on prescriptions, medicines packaging, dispensing labels and My Health Record Shared Health Summaries to support consumer understanding of the active ingredients in their medicines.

To support the implementation of AIP, the Department has worked with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) and industry to develop clinical support documentation for prescribers, including:

- Australian Guidelines for AIP,
- a list of excluded medicinal items (LEMI), and
- a List of Medicines for Brand Consideration (LMBC).

The LEMI identifies a small number of medicinal items that may be prescribed by brand name only, as it may be unsafe or impractical to include active ingredient names on a prescription such as those medicines which contain more than three active ingredients.

The LMBC identifies medicines for which inclusion of brand names on prescriptions may be appropriate to support individual patient safety. Prescribers receive an alert within their prescribing software when they prescribe items on the LMBC, advising them to consider whether brand inclusion is appropriate for their patient.

What Pharmacies need to know

- From 1 August 2021, new PBS and RPBS prescriptions that do not meet active ingredient prescribing requirements are not eligible for PBS/RPBS subsidy, and will need to be dispensed as a private prescription (with associated out of pocket costs to consumers), or they may be reissued by the prescriber in alignment with active ingredient prescribing requirements.
- Prescriptions and repeats prescribed prior to 1 August 2021 which do not meet AIP requirements are still eligible for PBS/RPBS subsidy.
- Prescribing software vendors have amended their products to ensure prescriptions generated by prescribers meet AIP requirements. If prescribers have updated their software to the latest version, their prescriptions will meet AIP requirements.
- A summary of the items excluded from active ingredient prescribing are listed below, to assist pharmacies in dispensing PBS and RPBS prescriptions.
- More information on AIP is available on the [PBS](#), [ACSQHC](#) and [NPS Medicine Wise](#) websites.

Queries

Any questions regarding Active Ingredient Prescribing can be sent to AIPrescribing@health.gov.au.



Medicinal items excluded from Active Ingredient Prescribing, eligible to be prescribed by brand name only:		
Description:	Examples:	
<p>Products containing 4 or more active ingredients</p> <p>NB: This includes where the 4 or more presentations includes the same active ingredient at different strengths, eg. Logynon ED.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Logynon ED ▪ Otocomb Otic ▪ Restore O.R.S. 	
Non-medicinal PBS/RPBS items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bandages ▪ Tapes ▪ Dressings ▪ Non-absorbed treatments 	
Vaccines and allergenic extracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ADT Booster ▪ Honey bee venom ▪ Paper wasp venom 	
A number of ocular lubricants and ophthalmologicals (see examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AciVision ▪ Atropt ▪ Betoptic ▪ BetoQuin ▪ Bion Tears ▪ Cellufresh ▪ Celluvisc ▪ Chlorsig ▪ Ciloxan ▪ Curity 4112 ▪ Evolve Carmellose ▪ Evolve Hypromellose ▪ Flarex ▪ FML Liquifilm ▪ Genteal gel ▪ HPMC PAA ▪ Hycor ▪ Hylo-Forte ▪ Hylo-Fresh ▪ In a Wink Moisturising ▪ Ircal ▪ Liquifilm Tears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maxidex ▪ Methopt ▪ Optifresh Plus ▪ Optifresh Tears ▪ Optive ▪ PAA ▪ Prednefrin Forte ▪ Poly Gel ▪ Poly-Tears ▪ Poly Visc ▪ PVA Tears ▪ Refresh Liquigel ▪ Refresh Night Time ▪ Refresh Tears Plus ▪ Sofradex ▪ Soframycin ▪ Systane ▪ Tears Naturale ▪ Tobrex ▪ Viscotears ▪ Viscotears Gel PF ▪ Genteal
A number of dermatological preparations (see examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alpha Keri Bath Oil ▪ Alpha Keri Lotion ▪ Aquasun Lotion SPF 18 ▪ Egopsoryl-TA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pinetarsol ▪ QV Bath Oil ▪ QV Skin Lotion ▪ SebiRinse ▪ Sebitar



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hamilton Skin Therapy Oil▪ Hamilton Skin Therapy Wash▪ Ionil-T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Selsun▪ Sensense Sensitive SPF 50+▪ Tricortone
Treatments for haemorrhoids and constipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anusol▪ Micolette	
Diagnostic tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Glucose indicator urine diagnostic strips	
Iron preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ferro-tab	
Vitamins, minerals and trace elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fruitivits	
General and other nutrients (ie. Medicinal foods)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Alfamino▪ EleCare▪ Energivit▪ Neocate Gold	

A comprehensive list of the items on the List of Excluded Medicinal Items (LEMI) and List of Medicines for Brand Consideration (LMBC) is available on the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's website: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/active-ingredient-prescribing>