



## Claiming the Pharmacy Incentive Scheme

The NSW Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) aims to reduce the social, health and economic harms associated with opioid abuse. There are 3 types of opioid pharmacotherapy available in NSW: methadone, buprenorphine and buprenorphine-naloxone.

### Registering for OTP

When first registering for the OTP service, a completed application form must be provided to the Ministry of Health. There are set requirements which must be met before an application is considered, including:

- All proprietors of the pharmacy must be listed
- The pharmacy name must be on the Pharmacy Council of NSW's register
- The listed pharmacy must be approved to supply pharmaceutical benefits under section 90 of the *National Health Act 1953*<sup>1</sup>.

### Changes to registered OTP pharmacy

A pharmacy must re-register to supply methadone and/or buprenorphine if the following circumstances are applicable:

- Change in ownership (new proprietors or partners)
- Change in trading name of pharmacy
- Addition of a drug (methadone or buprenorphine, as applicable).

It is highly recommended that applications for re-registration be submitted in advance but no earlier than 7 business days before the changes take effect. This is to minimise disruption to the supply of methadone and/or buprenorphine to the pharmacy<sup>1</sup>.

### Claiming incentive requirements

Pharmacies who newly register for the OTP service are eligible for an introductory one-off payment following certification that the pharmacy has dosed at least one patient continuously for a minimum of 2 months. Additionally, both new and existing pharmacies are eligible to receive an incentive payment of \$110 (GST included) per capita every 6 months for patients who have been dosed continuously for 2 months.

From 1 July 2018, pharmacies dosing pharmacotherapy through the NSW Opioid Treatment Program are required to lodge a 6-monthly declaration form to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch). This new form replaces the Methadone/Buprenorphine Pharmacy Incentive Scheme Monthly Return (MPIS 11/12) form, which pharmacies previously lodged with the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit.

The Pharmacy Incentive Scheme Declaration Forms must be submitted within one month of the end of the reporting period, meaning by 31 May and 30 November respectively. This payment is capped at 20 patients per pharmacy.

This simplification of the Pharmacy Incentive Scheme means a streamlining of processes and will lead to quicker incentives payments to pharmacies.

Go to [www.guild.org.au/guild-branches/nsw/professional-services/pharmacy-incentive-scheme](http://www.guild.org.au/guild-branches/nsw/professional-services/pharmacy-incentive-scheme) and click on the **Program Resources** icon to download and submit the form.

### Resources for further advice

For clinical advice on the diagnosis and clinical management of patients with alcohol or other drug related problems, please contact the NSW Drug & Alcohol Specialist Advisory Services (DASAS) on 02 9361 8006 (Sydney metro region) or 1800 023 687 (NSW regional/rural areas)<sup>1</sup>.

The Opioid Treatment Line (OTL) is a telephone helpline that provides information on pharmacotherapy, referrals, advice and a forum for pharmacotherapy concerns. It assists individuals who would like further information about pharmacotherapy services in NSW including how to enrol into the program. OTL operates Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5pm, on 1800 642 428<sup>1</sup>.

For further advice about the Pharmacy Incentive Scheme, please contact The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch) on 02 9467 7100 or email [healthservices@nsw.guild.org.au](mailto:healthservices@nsw.guild.org.au).

### References:

1. NSW Health Pharmaceutical Services. NSW Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) [Internet]. North Sydney: Pharmaceutical Services; [updated 2017 Dec 08; cited 2018 Jun 28]. Available from: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/pharmacists/Pages/otp-pharmacists.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/pharmacists/Pages/otp-pharmacists.aspx)