

Changes to co-payments for **Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs and Section 100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines in NSW**

From 1 October 2015, NSW residents who are patients of NSW public hospitals or authorised community prescribers in NSW will not be required to pay the patient co-payment for Section 100 (s100) Highly Specialised Drugs or s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines in NSW.

It is important that you discuss these changes with your patients when prescribing s100 Highly Specialised Drugs or s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines in NSW.

Who is eligible?

The changes apply to NSW residents who are patients of NSW public hospitals or authorised community prescribers in NSW and are prescribed s100 Highly Specialised Drugs or s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines under Section 100 of the National Health Act 1953.

This includes public non-admitted patients, outpatients or day patients, inpatients on discharge from public hospitals and privately referred, non-admitted patients treated by NSW public hospitals or authorised community prescribers in NSW.

There are no changes to co-payments for s100 Highly Specialised Drugs or s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines for patients who access care in the private sector in NSW.

The changes apply regardless of whether prescriptions are filled through NSW public hospitals, NSW community pharmacies or pharmacies used by NSW public hospital oncology services.

What are s100 Highly Specialised Drugs?

s100 Highly Specialised Drugs are medicines used to treat chronic conditions. Due to the clinical complexities and risks associated with s100 Highly Specialised Drugs, supply is generally restricted to public and private hospitals with appropriate specialist facilities, however some can be accessed through community pharmacies. Authorisation from the Commonwealth Government is required to prescribe or dispense s100 Highly Specialised Drugs.

A full list of s100 Highly Specialised Drugs is on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) website at www.pbs.gov.au.

What are s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines?

Injectable and infusible chemotherapy is used for the treatment of cancers in hospitals by oncology services. Oral chemotherapy, taken by mouth, which are general items on the PBS, are not affected by this commitment.

A full list of s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines is available on the PBS website at www.pbs.gov.au.

Completing the patient consent form

Patients prescribed s100 Highly Specialised Drugs through NSW public hospitals or authorised community prescribers in NSW must consent to NSW Health meeting the co-payment on their behalf by signing a **consent form**. The consent form is available online at www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical.

It is important that you complete and sign the form and attach it to the prescription for s100 Highly Specialised Drugs each time. The patient must present the signed form each time the prescription is filled, including with all repeats. By signing the form, the patient agrees to have the co-payment contribution paid by the NSW Government.

When a prescription is filled at pharmacies used by NSW public hospital oncology services, the patient signs a consent form. This form will indicate the patient's agreement for the NSW Government to pay the co-payment on their behalf and acknowledge that some details will be given to NSW Health to make the co-payment as well as used to evaluate the program.

Why are changes being made in NSW?

In March 2015, the NSW Government made the commitment to pay co-payments for s100 Highly Specialised Drugs and s100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines to help ease the financial burden for people with cancer and other chronic conditions.

This will benefit people living with cancer, as well as those with conditions such as HIV, patients with organ and tissue transplants, schizophrenia, hepatitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, cystic fibrosis, psoriatic and rheumatoid arthritis, and severe allergic asthma and rare diseases, particularly those affecting children, including juvenile idiopathic arthritis. A full list of conditions is available on the PBS website at

www.pbs.gov.au

More information

Visit the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical.

For more information for health care professionals about HIV, please visit the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) at www.ashm.org.au.

For more information about clozapine, please contact the two suppliers: **Hospira Pty Ltd** and **Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd**.