







PBS Authorities – Changes from 1 July 2024

We understand having access to PBS-subsidised medicines can be critical to patient care. That's why Services Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care are continuing to work together to increase the number of PBS medicines that can be requested and approved in 'real-time' using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system). This will include the changes being made to omalizumab for Uncontrolled severe asthma and Uncontrolled severe allergic asthma from 1 July 2024.

These changes will make it easier for you to request authority approval for these medicines from Services Australia. You will no longer need to submit written authority applications, prescriptions and test results for certain medicines and treatment phases. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally.

Summary of changes from 1 July 2024

 request Authority Online	 request Authority by Telephone	 upload form via HPOS or post
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Medicines	Authority Level	Details of Changes
Uncontrolled severe asthma & Uncontrolled severe allergic asthma		
Omalizumab	Written: <i>Initial treatment</i> 	No change to initial Authority Required restriction. Authority applications must be made in writing.
	Online / Telephone: <i>Continuing treatment</i>  	Change to continuing Authority Required restrictions. You will no longer be required to submit a written authority application. Authority applications can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.

Additional information

Where to find the changes

You can find out if a PBS medicine can be submitted digitally by checking the Administrative advice for that condition.

You can find the Administrative advice for each item under the Note in the PBS Schedule on the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

Example Administrative advice:

Note

Applications for authorisation under this restriction may be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system (see www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/HPOS) or by telephone by contacting Services Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday).

For more information about the **Online PBS Authorities system** visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities

Services Australia has a broad range of educational resources on the **Health Professional Education Resources** website. This includes simulations, podcast and an infographic on the Online PBS Authorities system. Visit <https://hpe.servicesaustralia.gov.au/pharmaceutical-benefits-scheme.html>

If you require additional assistance or have any queries, please email authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au.

Changes to the PBS Authority prescription process from 1 July 2024

From 1 July 2024, Services Australia will no longer accept the original prescriptions. We will only accept details of the proposed PBS prescription (and PDF form where appropriate) when seeking PBS authority approval via the post. We won't record the Authority Approval Number on the prescription or forward approved prescriptions to the patient. Where applicable, please ensure you keep a copy of the written authority application form and provide only copies of pathology results.

It's important to note, any original prescriptions Services Australia receives via the post that are written on or after 1 July 2024 will be immediately returned to you. Services Australia will retain a copy of the prescription for processing.

Once processed, the assessment outcome will be sent to you via the post. If approved, you will need to endorse the original PBS authority prescription with the PBS Approval Number and PBS item code prior to providing to your patient with a completed authority prescription.

We're also updating PBS Authority prescription pads, the 'Tick for return to patient' checkbox will be removed. You can continue to use your residual stock as it will still be valid. Changes have also enabled an increase to the number of sheets per prescription pad, from 25 to 50 sheets. This will mean you can reduce the number of pads you will need to order each time.

We understand having timely access to PBS-subsidised medicines can be critical to patient care. Did you know you can submit written PBS Authorities through the Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) Form Upload function. Also, most PBS Authorities can be requested and approved in 'real time' using the Online PBS Authorities system.