








PBS Authorities – Changes to childhood onset and late onset growth hormone deficiency

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 using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system). This will include somatropin for childhood onset and late onset growth hormone deficiency from 1 January 2025.

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, details of the proposed 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 January 2025

Medicine	Authority Level	Details of Changes
Somatropin	Online / Written: <i>Initial treatment</i>  	Adding an online channel to the existing written channel for an immediate assessment result for your patient. Authority applications can be made using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing.
	Online / Telephone: <i>Continuing treatment</i>  	No change to Continuing or Change of treatment. Authority applications can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.
 Request authority online – Immediate Assessment		 Request authority by telephone
		 Upload form via HPOS or post

If you're submitting the authority application form via post or Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) form upload facility, you'll still need to submit the authority application form and details of the proposed prescriptions.

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.