







PBS Authorities – Changes to chronic spontaneous urticaria

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 omalizumab for chronic spontaneous urticaria from 1 September 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, 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 September 2024

Medicines	Authority Level	Details of Changes		
omalizumab	Online / Written: <i>Initial treatment</i> 	Authority applications can be made using the Online PBS Authorities system or in writing. When submitted online, the application may still be assessed by a Services Australia operator if the patient could not complete the prior therapies (process known as a Delayed Assessment). When assessed you will receive an outcome notification directly to your Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) mailbox.		
	Online / Telephone: <i>Continuing treatment</i> 	No change to continuing Authority Required restriction. Authority applications can be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.		
 Request authority online – Immediate Assessment		 Request authority online – Delayed 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.

Changes to the PBS Authority prescription process from 1 July 2024

As of 1 July 2024, Services Australia no longer accepts original prescriptions. We 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 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.