



DECISION-MAKING AND THE PBS

Fact Sheet 009



The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)

The PBAC is an independent body established under The National Health Act to make recommendations to list new medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) [1]. The PBAC consists of experienced health professionals and one consumer representative. A PBAC recommendation must be given to medicines prior to being listed on PBS. Submissions are examined for the clinical efficacy, safety, and value for money [2]. Within the PBAC there are two sub-committees, which aid PBAC in decision-making, the Drug Utilization Sub-Committee and the Economics Sub-Committee [2].



Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM)

ACPM provides recommendations to the TGA on prescription medicines [5]. The recommendations include:

- The inclusion of a prescription medicine on the Register
- Changes to a prescription medicine on the register
- Inclusion or exclusion of a prescription medicine from the register

Through the TGA, ACPM provides advice to the Health Minister regarding all concerns relating to prescription medicine [6]. ACPM does not make decisions, ultimately the decisions are made by the TGA [5].



Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

TGA is Australia's governing authority for therapeutic goods. TGA implements various assessment and monitoring tools to ensure all therapeutic goods available in Australia meet industry standards. TGA aims to ensure that therapeutic goods are reviewed within a reasonable time frame so that the Australian public has access to therapeutic advances [3]. Only medicines approved by the TGA can be submitted to the PBAC for PBS listing.



References

1. Wonder, M. and S. Dunlop, Assessment of the Quality of the Clinical Evidence in Submissions to the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee: Fit for Purpose? *Value in Health*, 2015. 18(4): p. 467-476.
2. DoHA. Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). (Available from www.pbs.gov.au/info/industry/listing/participants/pbac%5D) [Accessed 28 June 2015]
3. DOHA & TGA. Who we are & what we do - TGA. (Available from www.tga.gov.au/node/3824%5D) [Accessed 28 June 2015]
4. M.S.A.C, Report of a review of the Medical Services Advisory Committee Health, Editor. 2005 Commonwealth of Australia Canberra
5. Wiseman, M., Understanding the Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM) and the Pharmaceutical Subcommittee (PSC), D.o. Health, Editor. 2014: Canberra
6. DOHA & TGA. Administration. Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM). (Available from www.tga.gov.au/node/1807%5D) [Accessed 14 July 2015]



Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)

MSAC provides the Health Minister with advice on whether a new or existing medical service should be publicly funded through listing on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) [4]. MSAC takes into consideration value for money of the service, clinical effectiveness, safety and overall cost of the medical service or technology [4]. MSAC only looks at medical services, not prescription medicines [4].



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