

# 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. Changes to Section 100 co-payments in NSW do not apply to items listed under the general schedule of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

The NSW Government will pay the co-payment for s100 Highly Specialised Drugs for eligible patients that choose to get their s100 Highly Specialised Drugs dispensed in community pharmacies under the community access arrangements of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

From 1 July 2015, HIV antiretroviral therapy, Hepatitis B medicines and clozapine (maintenance therapy) are listed under the community access arrangements which can be dispensed from community pharmacies. A full list of community access s100 Highly Specialised Drugs is listed on the **PBS website**.

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 under the community access arrangements of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). 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](http://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](http://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/Pages/s100-copayments.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/s100-copayments.aspx) and is valid for 12 months from the date the patient signs the form.

Should the patient's consent form become lost, damaged or illegible, it will be the responsibility of the patient to obtain a new consent form from their prescriber. It is important that you complete and sign the form and provide it to the patient for s100 Highly Specialised Drugs. One patient consent form is valid for 12 months and covers all prescriptions filled in that time period. The patient must present the signed form each time the prescription is filled, including any repeats. By signing the form, the patient agrees to have the co-payment contribution paid by the NSW Government for a 12 month period.

When a prescription is filled at pharmacies used by NSW public hospital oncology services, the patient already 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](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

## More information

Visit the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical](http://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](http://www.ashm.org.au).

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