

# PBS Authorities – Changes to digital access

## November 2022




From 1 November 2022, prescribers can submit the following Authority Required (written) PBS listed medicines using the Online PBS Authorities system (the system).



You will no longer need to submit authority applications, prescriptions and test results for these medicines. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally. Although changes have been made to the wording of certain prescribing instructions and administrative notes, the PBS patient eligibility criteria for these medicines won't change.



These changes will make it easier for you to request authority approval from Services Australia.

In addition to these changes, as indicated below some of the continuing treatment phases have reduced to Authority Required (streamlined). This means for these items, prescribers no longer need to request prior approval from Services Australia and Services Australia will no longer assess the eligibility for these items. Instead, the prescriber must annotate the prescription by providing the four or five digit streamlined authority code for the item being prescribed.

### Summary of November 2022 Changes

 request Authority Online	 request Authority by Telephone	 upload form via HPOS or post
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Condition	Drug/s	1 November 2022 Authority Level	1 November 2022 Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diabetic macular oedema</li> <li>Retinal vein occlusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept</li> <li>Dexamethasone implant</li> <li>Ranibizumab</li> </ul>	<b>Written (Electronic):</b> Initial treatment 	Adding an online channel to existing written restrictions for an immediate assessment result for your patient
		<b>Streamlined</b> Continuing treatment	Changing the Authority Level from Telephone/Electronic to <b>Streamlined</b>
<b>Subfoveal choroidal neovascularisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aflibercept</li> <li>Brolucizumab</li> <li>Ranibizumab</li> </ul>	<b>Written (Electronic):</b> Initial treatment 	Adding an online channel to existing written restrictions for an immediate assessment result for your patient

		<b>Streamlined</b> Continuing treatment	Changing the Authority Level from Telephone/Electronic to <b>Streamlined (afibercept and ranibizumab only)</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>Drug/s</b>	<b>1 November 2022 Authority Level</b>	<b>1 November 2022 Changes</b>
<b>Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis</b>	- Nintedanib - Pirfenidone	<b>Written (Electronic):</b> Initial treatment 	Adding an online channel to existing written restrictions for an immediate assessment result for your patient
<b>Progressive fibrosing interstitial lung disease</b>	- Nintedanib	<b>Written (Electronic):</b> Initial treatment 	Adding an online channel to existing written restrictions for an immediate assessment result for your patient

## 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 website.

The PBS Authority Required application forms for these medicines will reflect the requirements for digital submission.

Example Administrative advice:

#### **Note**

Any queries concerning the arrangements to prescribe may be directed to Services Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday).

Prescribing information (including Authority Application forms and other relevant documentation as applicable) is available on the Services Australia website at [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au)

Applications for authorisation under this restriction should be made in real time using the Online PBS Authorities system (see [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos))

Alternatively, applications for authority to prescribe can be submitted online using the form upload facility in Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) at [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos)

Or mailed to:

If you're using the authority application form via post or Health Professional Online Service (HPOS) form upload facility, you'll still need to submit authority applications, prescriptions and test result details. This will delay the assessment of the authority application.

### **Can PBS authority applications be submitted by post?**

You can still submit applications for authority to prescribe by:

- mailing your application
- uploading documents in HPOS.

Updated versions of application forms will remain available on our website.

### **How will you know what the changes are?**

Whenever there are changes to the PBS listings, we'll send you an email summary.

We'll explain what the change is, for what condition, and the drugs that treat it.

#### **Important information**

This information relates to the administration of these listings by Services Australia. For further information on broader PBS changes, please visit the [PBS website](#).