



Australian Government

Department of Health

Active Ingredient Prescribing Key Messaging

PRESCRIBERS

What prescribers need to know:

- From 1 February 2021, all new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Repatriation PBS (RPBS) prescriptions (noting a small number of exclusions) **must** include active ingredient(s).
- Prescribing software will automatically include active ingredients on prescriptions. Prescribers can still include a brand name after active ingredient(s) on prescriptions if clinically necessary and still disallow brand substitution where required.
- These requirements only apply to computer generated prescriptions, and prescriptions for medicines with up to 3 active ingredients. Handwritten prescriptions are excluded.
- The Department has been working with the medical software industry to ensure that all prescribing software incorporates necessary changes to automate this process for prescribers.
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in healthcare have developed clinical support documentation that is now available on their website via:
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/active-ingredient-prescribing>.

What prescribers need to do:

- Update prescribing software before 1 February 2021, to ensure you are using a version which supports active ingredient prescribing.
- Capability has been built into your clinical information system. Contact your software provider directly to find out about how to upgrade your software to the latest version that has AIP capability.
- Subscribe to your software provider newsletters and correspondence.
- Stay up to date with communication from clinical peak organisations.

Where prescribers can get more information:

Detailed information is available:

- On the PBS Website via: <https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/active-ingredient-prescribing>
- On the NPS MedicineWise website via: <https://www.nps.org.au/active-ingredient-prescribing>.
- On the RACGP website via: <https://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/technology/clinical-technology/active-ingredient-prescribing>
- On the ACRRM website via: <https://www.acrrm.org.au/about-us/news-events/news/2020/09/29/update-on-active-ingredient-prescribing>
- On the AMA website via: <https://ama.com.au/gpnn/issue-20-number-40/articles/active-ingredient-prescribing-implementation-resources-gps>

Questions should be addressed to AIPrescribing@health.gov.au.