



# PHARMACEUTICAL REFORM

*A new level of medication care and safety*

## Fact Sheet for Community Pharmacists

Pharmaceutical Reform is being introduced in Tasmanian public hospitals from early 2011. It will improve the medication support services provided to hospital patients and staff, as well as the transfer of medication related information to community healthcare providers by:

- Delivering medication support services to all patients to meet national standards (APAC Guidelines)<sup>1</sup>. The APAC guidelines include activities such as timely admission medication history interviews, daily medication chart review and patient education.
- Providing access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

### Public hospital patients will benefit from

- More pharmacists in hospitals to provide patient education and discuss their medication needs.
- Better documentation of medication related information in the discharge summary provided to their GP and other community healthcare providers.
- One month's supply of medicines (where required) on discharge from hospital or when filling an outpatient prescription. Previously on discharge, only a 3-5 day supply of medication was provided.

### How it works

- Doctors affiliated with public hospitals will be able to write PBS prescriptions on hospital specific stationery for Medicare eligible hospital patients on discharge or those attending outpatient clinics.
- The standard PBS quantity will be prescribed, except where it is clinically appropriate to request a different amount.
- On discharge, the patient will be assisted by their hospital pharmacist to work out which medications they require, taking into account any supplies they have at home. The hospital pharmacy will then only provide what the patient needs, not everything they are taking.

<sup>1</sup>Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council. *Guiding principles to achieve continuity in medication management*. Canberra; Commonwealth of Australia:2005

- The public hospital pharmacy will supply the PBS quantity of medication (when ordered) with the patient contributing the standard PBS co-payment for each item.
- Any items dispensed by the public hospital pharmacy that attract a co-payment contribute to the patient's PBS Safety Net tally. Prescription Record Forms (PRF) will be provided by the hospital pharmacy department on request.
- Repeats for PBS items will not usually be ordered. Instead information will be sent to the patient's general practitioner for continuation of treatment.
- Hospital pharmacy departments are not permitted to dispense community PBS prescriptions.

### Dispensing a hospital PBS prescription in a community pharmacy

You may occasionally receive a PBS prescription that was written in a public hospital. It **can** be dispensed in a community pharmacy.

All the information you require to dispense is present on a hospital PBS prescription. The prescription form is in triplicate – you require the top two copies to dispense.

#### Key points for dispensing

- ✓ All Tasmanian legal requirements for a prescription apply.
- ✓ More than one authority item may be listed on a single prescription.
- ✓ Process a hospital PBS repeat in the same way as a repeat from another community pharmacy.
- ✓ Hospital PBS prescriptions can be claimed with community prescriptions in the usual manner, with claim stickers affixed to the prescription.
- ✓ For problems with an individual prescription contact the doctor through the hospital switchboard (phone number on prescription).