

# Fact Sheet: Recent ODTP Changes (July 2023)- What it means for clients

## *What is changing?*

The Commonwealth Government has announced changes to the opioid dependence treatment program (ODTP) from 1 July 2023. Opioid dependence treatment medicines (methadone and buprenorphine (tablets, film or injection)) will now be part of the PBS like all other medicines. You can find more details on the new changes here: [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | Opiate Dependence Treatment Program](#).

***This change will make it easier and less expensive for people in Australia to access ODTP medications.***

## *How much will I pay?*

From 1 July, you will pay what is known as a **monthly** co-payment. For concession card holders, this will be \$7.30 every 28 days (even if you are dosed/pick up more regularly) and \$30 every 28 days for Medicare card holders.

If you are on two different formulations for buprenorphine (film, tablets), you will be required to pay two co-payments.

There may be a few services that choose to supply OTP medicines outside this new arrangement from 1 July and could then charge more. We expect this to only happen in rare cases.

## *I am worried that I will not be able to continue to get my opioid treatment because of the changes?*

***You will not be discontinued in your ODTP medicines.*** NSW Health is working hard to make sure that no one is left behind. We are working closely with services that may be impacted by these changes. If you are worried, or you want to minimise any changes to your routine, you can call the Opioid Treatment Line (OTL) 1800 642 428 and they will give you advice on how to access your dose. Alternatively, for free, confidential peer support and advice, call PeerLine at 1800 644 413 – they are there to help.

## *What happens if I am a client at a community pharmacy?*

You should not notice a change in how you receive treatment, but the treatment will be cheaper for you from 1 July. Pharmacists will receive reimbursements for carrying out this service.

## *What happens if I am a client at a public clinic?*

NSW Health is still working out the details, but your arrangements should stay largely the same.

## *What happens if I am a client at a private clinic or a private pharmacy?*

NSW Health has been working hard to make sure there is a transition period past 1 July so these services can continue to operate. However, some services may have to close or change the way they operate. As a result, you may need a new prescriber and/or dosing point. Despite these changes, it is still your right to ask questions and ask for solutions that might suit you better.

While these services are still operating, they will be still able to charge their current fees (including after 1 July 2023).

***If your pharmacy or clinic won't offer OTP medication on the PBS, the Opioid Treatment Line can help find you a new dosing point where you can receive the PBS rate.***

*What are my rights when negotiating my treatment during this time?*

It is your right to receive medical care that suits your needs. If you are being asked to change your treatment in a way that you do not like, talk to your doctor about why that does not work for you. Services will do their best to help you and to find the best available option.

We understand that these changes may cause you disruption or raise questions or issues. For free, confidential peer support, call PeerLine at 1800 644 413 – they are there to help.