

# Opioid Dependence Treatment Program (ODTP) Reforms

## Consumer Fact Sheet



If you are on the ODTP (on methadone or buprenorphine – tablets/film/injections) you may have heard about changes to the program in the [2023 Federal Budget](#). At HRA we understand this is important, so here's the main information to know:

### 1. How is the Opioid Dependence Treatment Program changing?

- From 1 July 2023 ODTP medications will be treated the same as other [S100 prescription medications](#).
- This means that if you are dosed at a community pharmacy **you will pay less for your opioid dependence treatment from 1 July 2023**.
- If you are dosed at a public clinic, nothing will change and your ODTP will continue free-of-charge.
- If you are at a private clinic, non-PBS pharmacy or you get your long acting buprenorphine injections at a GP surgery – you will need to speak to your provider directly about how these changes will affect you.

### 2. How will the changes effect what I pay at the pharmacy?

- The ODTP is shifting from a daily or weekly dispensing fee to a **monthly** PBS co-payment (just like any other prescription you might get filled at a pharmacy).
- From 1 July 2023, the community pharmacy **will no longer charge you daily dosing fees**.
- Instead, the pharmacist will charge you a PBS co-payment once a month for your methadone or buprenorphine (tablets/film/injection) prescription.
- The PBS co-payment that you will pay is a **maximum of \$30 for general patients** or **\$7.30 if you have a concession card** every 28 days.



- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** the co-payment is for each individual prescribed medicine – if you are prescribed multiple ODT medicines, or different strengths of the same medicine (i.e., 2mg + 8mg buprenorphine film), you will need to pay the copayment for each medicine.
- The co-payment will also **count towards your PBS Safety Net** – once you reach the safety net threshold, you will receive your eligible medicine at a **cheaper price** or **free of charge**, for the remainder of the year.
  - The Safety Net limit is \$262.80 (for concession card holders) and \$1563.50 (for general patients) for further information on the PBS program and the Safety Net [click here](#)
  - Ask your pharmacist to record your ODTP payments on your PBS Safety Net Record.

### 3. Who is eligible?

- Any Australian resident with a current Medicare card is eligible – if you are a concession card holder you receive further concessions.
- Which drugs are covered:
  - i. methadone oral liquid
  - ii. buprenorphine sublingual tablets
  - iii. buprenorphine + naloxone sublingual films
  - iv. long-acting injectable buprenorphine products.

### 4. Do I need to do anything before 1 July?

- Short answer – no
- Your existing script will remain valid – you will **NOT** need to get a new PBS prescription by 1 July 2023.
- When your current script expires, at your next review your doctor will write you a PBS prescription.

If you are on the ODTP and need further information or help with specific concerns in relation to the ODTP reforms, please reach out to one of AIVL's member organisations across the country <https://aivl.org.au/aivl-member-organisations/>