



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

March 27, 2017

11 breakthrough medicines made cheaper to help loved-ones battle cancer, disease and manage diabetes: Maranoa MP David Littleproud

BREAKTHROUGH and previously very expensive medicines to treat diabetes, cancer, arthritis, asthma and eye disease will soon be made more easily available thanks to a subsidy by the Federal Government through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Maranoa MP David Littleproud said today.

“From April 1, 11 new and expanded listings means patients will save hundreds – and in many cases thousands-of-dollars – for these drugs as they price will drop to a maximum of \$39.50 per script with concessional patients, including pensioners, paying just \$6.40,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Research shows that the further you live from a city, your access to prescribed medicine decreases but I believe the PBS is making a real difference for us in rural and remote communities by making much-needed medicines more accessible by dramatically decreasing the cost hurdle for these drugs.

“We all know and love someone who is battling cancer, disease or managing diabetes but, as an example, take the newly listed Atezolizumab is it will now be available to treat locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, supporting about 2000 patients.

“This PBS inclusions means this \$99,104 per course of Atezolizumab treatment will now cost \$6.40 for pensioners or a maximum of \$39.50 per script – finally putting this medication in reach of those fighting this cancer.”

The independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommended each of these listings.

Since coming into government, the Coalition has helped improve the health of Australians by subsidising more than \$8.2 billion worth of new medicines.

Unlike Labor, the Coalition Federal Government are subsidising all drugs recommended by the PBAC.

For more PBS information, visit: www.pbs.gov.au

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FAST FACTS

PBS new April 1, 2018 inclusions (including but not limited to):

Diabetes treatment:

- A new form of insulin glargine (Toujeo[®]) a longer lasting, higher strength insulin provides more options for patients to better manage treatment, reducing night time hypoglycaemia. This new treatment option will be available to more than 178,000 Australians each year. Without subsidised access, patients would pay about \$1820 each year.
- Dapagliflozin (Forziga[®]), Dapagliflozin with metformin (Xigduo[®] XR), and Dapagliflozin with saxagliptin (Qtern[®]) supports triple oral therapy for patients with Type 2 Diabetes mellitus, normally costing patients about \$1033 annually.
- Empagliflozin and Linagliptin (Glyxambi[®]) provides another treatment option for use in triple oral therapy for patients with Type 2 Diabetes mellitus. Without a PBS listing patients would pay about \$1026 every year.

Cancer treatment:

- Pralatrexate (Folotyn[®]) which will provide a new treatment option for T-Cell lymphoma, helping about 440 patients each year.
- Atezolizumab (Tecentriq[®]) will now be available to treat locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer. This will support around 2000 patients who would normally pay around \$99,104 per course of treatment.
- Onidegib (Odomzo[®]) will treat patients with basal cell carcinoma, helping more than 900 patients each year.

Arthritis treatment:

- Methotrexate (Trexject[®]) will be available to treat rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis. Without PBS listing, an average of 2,300 patients would pay around \$1093 annually.

Asthma treatment:

- A new brand of budesonide with eformoterol is also being listed to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and provides this combination of medicines to patients in a different inhaler device.

Eye disease treatment:

- Dexamethasone (Ozurdex[®]) will now also be available to treat non-infectious uveitis (inflammatory disease of the eye). Without subsidised access, an average of 1165 patients would pay about \$2753 per course of treatment.

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