

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-00589

OUTCOME: 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

How many drugs are currently awaiting listing on the PBS after being assessed by the PBAC? Which drugs are these? When are they expected to be listed?

Answer:

Since September 2013 the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has held two meetings, in November 2013 and March 2014.

At the November 2013 PBAC meeting there were 38 positive recommendations for new and amended listings, 29 of these have been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Four medicines remain outstanding and will be listed shortly (bevacizumab, botulinum toxin type A, metformin and esomeprazole magnesium). The remaining five medicines cannot proceed due to final arrangements not being met by the sponsor; withdrawal of the medicine by the sponsor after PBAC recommendation; or issues requiring resubmission and further consideration by the PBAC.

There were 34 positive recommendations at the March 2014 PBAC meeting for new and amended listings. Of these, 13 medicines have been approved by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Peter Dutton MP, and will be listed on 1 July 2014 and 1 August 2014. A total of 21 medicines remain outstanding.

The listing dates for these items are dependent on the finalisation of pricing negotiations; risk share agreements; Therapeutic Goods Administration registration status; and the sponsor's ability to supply the drug from the listing date before receiving Ministerial approval to proceed. Due to these factors, the listing dates are subject to change and are unable to be provided.

Details of the medicines that were recommended by PBAC are available at www.pbs.gov.au