

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-089

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: CLOSING THE GAP PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME
CO-PAYMENT MEASURE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

How does Medicare Australia or the Department intend to measure how closely private GPs (those enrolled in the Indigenous PIP measure and generating CTG scripts) adhere to patient eligibility criteria when writing CTG scripts under the B1 measure (PBS co-pay relief)?

Answer:

To become eligible for the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment measure a person must identify as an indigenous person and be assessed by an authorised prescriber, such as a general practitioner or a specialist, as a person who suffers from, or is at risk of, chronic disease.

Once a patient is eligible for the Closing the Gap Co-payment measure, the authorised prescriber is not required to assess the patient against the eligibility criteria for any subsequent PBS prescriptions. A patient may elect to withdraw from the measure at any time.

Compliance activities to monitor public expenditure against both the PBS and Medical Benefits Scheme programs are undertaken by the Department of Human Services.