



Draft APS Ref.: DPP02/09

Date of Effect: 8th March 2011

When can an approved supplier certify supply of PBS medicine and what are the certification requirements?

Clarification

This APS was developed to clarify the certification requirements for an approved supplier when supplying PBS medicines.

Medicare Australia provides the following interpretation:

An approved supplier (under Regulation 31(3) of the National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960, the approved supplier is an approved pharmacist, approved medical practitioner or approved hospital authority) can certify supply of PBS medication when it is not practicable for a patient or their agent to acknowledge or sign for receipt of PBS medicines.

For the purpose of Regulation 31(3) of the National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960, the approved supplier must:

- mark on the prescription the date of supply, and
- indicate the reason why it was not practicable for the person who received the PBS medicine to acknowledge receipt, and
- identify themselves by, at a minimum, providing their name and handwritten signature on the prescription.

Medicare Australia accepts the use of stamps when certifying PBS prescriptions. If the stamp details a reason, certification must include a name, handwritten signature and the date. If the stamp is a date stamp, it must be accompanied by a reason, a name and a handwritten signature.

Payment of a claim is not dependent on the nature of the reason given, however, a reason must be provided.

What was the issue?

The issue related to certification of supply of PBS medicine by an approved supplier (pharmacist), where a patient or their agent is unable to sign for receipt of PBS medication.

The certification of supply of PBS medication when a patient or their agent is unable to acknowledge receipt of PBS medication requires that a reason be provided when it may not be practicable to obtain this acknowledgement.

What does the legislation say?



Australian Government

Medicare Australia

The *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960*, as at 10 December 2010, states:

31 Receipt of pharmaceutical benefit

- (3) If it is not practicable for an approved pharmacist, approved medical practitioner or approved hospital authority to obtain an acknowledgment in accordance with subregulation (1) for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit, the pharmacist, medical practitioner or hospital authority must certify on the prescription:
- (a) the date on which the supply was made; and
 - (b) the reason why it was not practicable to obtain the acknowledgment.

Penalty: \$20.

Application of this APS

The issue has been resolved through education.

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