

# PBS Authorities – Balance of Supply medicines

Balance of Supply (BoS) is available for certain PBS-subsidised medicines where patients do not have sufficient medication to complete their course of treatment.

Below are some examples of when, and when not to request a BoS PBS-subsidised authority:

When to request a balance of supply	When <u>not</u> to request a balance of supply
Where a patient is eligible for 6 months of treatment for a continuing PBS-subsidised medicine, but only 3 months were originally prescribed, a health professional can request the remaining 3 months treatment using the BoS restriction.	If the health professional has not received the approval to prescribe the initial or continuing PBS-subsidised treatment for that condition.
When replacing a patient's lost script	
There has been a change to the prescribed medicines dosage or formulation	
When the patient is changing between public and private for s100 items	

Did you know you can request authority approval for the BoS of some PBS-subsidised medicines using the Online PBS Authorities system. This means health professionals can request an authority approval online from Services Australia and the system will provide an immediate assessment result in real-time, avoiding any postage or processing delays.

To help health professionals determine their patient's eligibility, questions and answers have been applied to the BoS restrictions for medicines to ensure the correct restriction and treatment phase is selected.

We understand having access to PBS-subsidised medicines can be critical to patient care, that's why Services Australia and the Department of Health and Aged Care will continue to work together to increase the number of PBS medicines that can be requested and approved in 'real-time' using the Online PBS Authorities system.

For more information about the Online PBS Authorities system visit

**[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hppbsauthorities)**

Services Australia has a broad range of educational resources on the Health Professional Education Resources website. This includes simulations, an infographic and podcast about the Online PBS Authorities system. Visit **<https://hpe.servicesaustralia.gov.au/pharmaceutical-benefits-scheme.html>**

If you require additional assistance or have any queries, please email

**[authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:authority.comms.change@servicesaustralia.gov.au)**

Kind regards,

PBS Authorities  
Pharmaceutical Benefits Branch  
Services Australia