

# PBS Authorities – Digital access to Alzheimer’s disease

## May 2023

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 are continuing 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 (the system). This includes the recent changes made to the Alzheimer’s disease medicines from 1 May 2023.

These changes will make it easier for you to request authority approval for these medicines from Services Australia. You will no longer need to submit hard copy authority applications, prescriptions and test results. Instead, you will be able to use the system to apply for authority approval and provide evidence digitally. Although changes have been made to the wording of certain prescribing instructions and administrative notes, the PBS patient eligibility criteria for these medicines won’t change.


### Summary of May 2023 Changes



request Authority Online



request Authority by Telephone

Condition	Drug/s	1 May 2023 Authority Level	1 May 2023 Changes
Alzheimer’s disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Donepezil</li> <li>- Galantamine</li> <li>- Memantine</li> <li>- Rivastigmine</li> </ul>	<p><b>Telephone (Electronic):</b></p> <p>Initial treatment</p> 	<p>Change to the initial Authority Required restrictions. Prescribers will no longer be required to submit a written application to complete the balance of an initial script.</p> <p>Authority applications for initial treatment can be made in real time using the Online PBS Authorities system or by telephone.</p>
		<p><b>Streamlined:</b></p> <p>Continuing treatment</p>	<p>Authority applications for continuing treatment will remain as streamlined.</p>

### Additional information

#### Where to find the changes

You can find out if a PBS medicine can be submitted digitally by checking the Administrative advice for that condition.

You can find the Administrative advice for each item under the note in the PBS Schedule on the Department of Health website.

Example Administrative advice:

**Note**

Applications for authorisation under this restriction may be made in real-time using the Online PBS Authorities system (see [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/HPOS](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/HPOS)) or by telephone by contacting Services Australia on 1800 700 270 (hours of operation 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday).

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 and an infographic on 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).

### **Important information**

This information relates to the administration of these listings by Services Australia. For further information on broader PBS changes, please visit the PBS website.