

# Online PBS Authorities system improvements

Services Australia is always looking for ways to improve the services and products that we offer, that's why you will notice there will be further system enhancements to improve functionality of the Online PBS Authority system (the system) from December 2023.

When you use the system, you will notice changes to the way the system looks and performs, including:

Improvements to the Authority Prescription Number (APN) function, allowing the APN to be changed prior to the authority being submitted.

Future system enhancements will allow for the APN to be changed after the authority assessment.

The introduction of an Online PBS Authorities system timeout reminder for when the system has been inactive for a period of time.

Note: It is important to keep our services secure. You may need to log in again through PRODA's two-factor authentication.

Enabling PBS authorities to be blocked if needed, preventing outstanding repeats from being supplied. Pharmacy will receive a rejection if supply is attempted.

The ability to complete a new authority for the same patient, on the same day, for the same course of treatment without duplicating assessment questions.

Improvements to the Item Search function, changing from three search fields to a single dynamic search field. This means when you start typing predictive results will display for you to select from.

There are a few ways to search for a drug using the new Keyword or item search field:

- Start searching by entering a drug name or brand
- Refine the search by adding the form and strength  
e.g. amox caps 500mg for amoxicillin 500mg capsule
- Search by PBS item code.

Enhancements to the Dose frequency function allowing you to select from a drop down list:  
Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, Every and As required

You can select '?' at any time to see examples of how to enter the dose frequency.

Over the next 6 months there will be further enhancements to improve system functionality. We will ensure you are kept informed as each change is implemented.

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 podcast, 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).

Kind regards,

PBS Authorities  
Pharmaceutical Benefits Branch  
Services Australia