

# Chemotherapy funding arrangements

## Activity timeline



Your Pharmacy Partner

### Dialogue commences 8 March 2012

#### 8 March 2012

Meeting with Kim Bessell, DoHA, at APP Conference to indicate that our modelling shows the critical chemotherapy funding cliff, originally flagged in the 'Alternate Model' development, will occur on 1 December 2012 when Docetaxel has its first weighted average price reduction. Internal calculations reflect a 72% reduction is likely.

#### 9 March 2012

CPCSG re-form following meeting with Kim Bessell the prior day, to commence next round of data gathering and analysis in order to inform government.

#### 30 April 2012

Pharmacy Guild send letter to DoHA questioning the application of the mark-up algorithm under Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy, which has 'unintended consequences' and resulted in a greater reduction of funding for chemotherapy items than intended.

#### 23 May 2012

Meeting to discuss treatment chart as prescription and expansion of streamlined authority for majority of chemotherapy items. Discussion that it represents 1 of the 2 remaining aspects of the 'Alternate Model' not yet incorporated into EFC.

#### 8 June 2012

DoHA respond to the Pharmacy Guild letter dated 30 April, stating they do not accept there is an issue with the mark-up algorithm.

#### 11 July 2012

Pharmacy Guild, with the support of the CPCSG, submit a paper to DoHA outlining the requirements for a sustainable chemotherapy funding arrangement. This states that the looming shortfall in EFC funding was known and communicated at the time of EFC negotiation, and has been exacerbated by negative impacts of certain aspects of the EFC implementation.

#### 28 August 2012

DoHA respond to 11 July paper effectively stating there is no issue, but that the request for a meeting will be passed on to Felicity McNeill, Pharmaceutical Benefits Division.

#### 12 September 2012

Pharmacy Guild write to the Health Minister seeking a meeting to discuss the 11 July paper.

#### 5 November 2012

APHS have teleconference with DoHA representatives to confirm the issue, timing and potential resolution via an increased fee.

#### 7 November 2012

Meeting occurs between the Pharmacy Guild and Health Minister.

April – June 2012  
CPCSG update and validate data  
confirming the unsustainability of the  
current chemotherapy funding  
arrangements.

2012

2012

2013

**8 November 2012**

Pharmacy Guild request detailed cost data from pharmacy operators for DoHA following 7 November meeting.

**12 November 2012**

APHS Pharmacy Group provide cost data on Pharmacy Guild provided templates.

**15 November 2012**

Professionals for Safe Cancer Treatment meet in Brisbane to discuss ongoing chemotherapy funding concerns; Kim Bessell and Felicity McNeill in attendance.

**16 November 2012**

Pharmacy Guild send a letter to the Health Minister providing further detail regarding the cost data requested on 7 November.

**27 November 2012**

Pharmacy Guild meet with DoHA and are requested to supply cost data on DoHA templates.

**28 November 2012**

Kim Bessell and Jane Weder, DoHA, visit St Andrew's Hospital Toowoomba to meet with the pharmacy and hospital to understand the funding impact first-hand; hospital management, hospital board members, VMO haematologist and pharmacy management in attendance.

**29 November 2012**

- APHS provide cost data on DoHA templates
- Pharmacy Guild and DoHA meet and enter into exclusive negotiations regarding chemotherapy funding arrangements

**30 November 2012**

Pharmacy Guild update stakeholders advising they are working constructively with DoHA on an urgent solution and are seeking any funding shortfall to be backdated to 1 December 2012 once an agreement has been reached; request that members keep providing services with no disruption.

**4 February 2013**

CPCSG write to Pharmacy Guild seeking an update regarding the Guild-Government negotiations.

**7 February 2013**

- Pharmacy Guild respond to 4 February letter advising that a solution does not appear to be imminent
- Motion is passed for a Senate Inquiry into Supply of Chemotherapy Drugs such as Docetaxel

**18 February 2013**

CPCSG engage Pitcher Partners to undertake an independent assessment of price disclosure on chemotherapy supply and industry sustainability, for inclusion in Senate Inquiry submission.

**20 March 2013**

Professionals for Safe Cancer Treatment meet in Canberra to discuss ongoing chemotherapy funding concerns; David Learmonth, DoHA, in attendance.

**28 March 2013**

Senate Inquiry hearing; Stuart Giles participates on behalf of APHS Pharmacy Group and CPCSG.

December 2012 – January 2013

Pharmacy Guild and the Government negotiate exclusively, no visibility of activity or progress for APHS and other providers.

February – March 2013

APHS Pharmacy Group and CPCSG prepare and lodge submissions for the Senate Inquiry.

**Senate Inquiry hearing 28 March 2013**