

**To:** [Committee, Health \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Skin Cancer in Australia

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Honourable Members,

The PBS has recently listed two important medications for the treatment of metastatic melanoma: ipilimumab and dabrafenib. Others are under consideration.

Restrictions on prescribing these expensive drugs are deeply respected by the medical profession.

However, one particular restriction may severely and unnecessarily compromise the management of patients with this disease: this is the PBS requirement that those receiving dabrafenib must not have had a previous PBS listed medication for metastatic melanoma. This effectively restricts the medical oncologist to using dabrafenib prior to ipilimumab. Medically it is often highly preferable, or even essential, to use them in the opposite order, and impossible to use them in the order mandated by the PBS.

This is a purely bureaucratic matter which should not carry cost implications and could be readily rectified by deleting a few words from the dabrafenib listing.

I know I represent all my melanoma medical oncology colleagues throughout Australia in this submission

Yours faithfully

Richard Kefford AM MB BS PhD FRACP

Professor of Cancer Medicine, Macquarie University Sydney

Co-Director of Research, Melanoma Institute Australia