



### **Quality Use of Medicines Maximised in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (QUMAX)**

The QUMAX Program aims to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that attend the 69 participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) in rural and urban Australia by trialling interventions that aim to:

- Improve the Quality Use of Medicines (QUM)
- Support improved access to medicines by addressing cultural, transport and financial barriers.

As part of the QUMAX program, financial assistance is provided through the payment of PBS prescription co-payments and provision of Dose Administration Aids (DAAs) to eligible clients.

The QUMAX Program was set up as a two year trial that was due to finish 31 March 2010, however has been extended to 30 June 2011. The QUMAX Program is jointly managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and is funded by the Australian Government.

### **What does this mean for pharmacists?**

#### ***QUMAX PBS prescriptions***

PBS co-payment prescriptions can be issued with a QUMAX MAAP number until 30 June 2010. These prescriptions issued by or on 30 June 2010 and associated repeats will continue to be honoured by the Guild for 12 months from date of prescribing (until 30 June 2011) and claimed via the 4CPA IT system ([www.pharmacyprograms.org.au](http://www.pharmacyprograms.org.au)). A MAAP number is required for all claims and these can be issued from participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services until 30 June 2010.

Previously, QUMAX prescriptions had an expiry date of four months. This expiry date has been extended to 12 months for PBS prescriptions. QUMAX Dose Administration Aid (DAA) prescriptions will remain with a four month expiry.

QUMAX PBS prescriptions written from 1 July 2010 will not be covered by the QUMAX Program. If you receive a script dated on or after 1 July 2010 that has been stamped with a red QUMAX stamp for co-payment relief, please liaise with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service that issued the prescription. It is important to ensure that the patient does not go without the prescribed medicine. Local protocols may be in place to assist patients in these situations.

***QUMAX Dose Administration Aids (DAA)***

From 1 July 2010, QUMAX DAA prescriptions will continue to be covered by the QUMAX Program. The red QUMAX stamp will be replaced by a blue QUMAX DAA stamp.

<b>QUMAX - DAA</b>		001
MAAP No:	M	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
DAA for ..... weeks		
QUMAX Hotline: 1300 764 088		
QUMAX Email: qumax@guild.org.au		

DAAs will continue to be claimed through the CPA IT system ([www.pharmacyprograms.org.au](http://www.pharmacyprograms.org.au)).

***Closing the Gap (CTG) PBS Co-payment Measure***

From 1 July 2010, the 'Closing the Gap' (CTG) PBS Co-payment Measure will commence. In brief, the Measure will assist many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients by providing PBS medicines at a lower cost – eligible general patients will pay the concessional co-payment, and eligible concessional patients will have a nil co-payment. Fees such as brand and therapeutic group premium costs will not be covered and must be paid at the time of supply. Doctors will annotate a PBS prescription either by hand or computer generated for eligible patients. Under these arrangements, your dispensing software will be updated and payments will be managed by Medicare Australia.

All pharmacies will be sent a CTG PBS Co-payment Measure Information Kit in mid-June 2010.

**Further information**

For all QUMAX queries, please call the QUMAX hotline on 1300 764 088 or email [qumax@guild.org.au](mailto:qumax@guild.org.au)  
For all CTG PBS Co-payment Measure queries, please visit the website [www.health.gov.au/tackling-chronic-disease](http://www.health.gov.au/tackling-chronic-disease) or call the PBS Indigenous Program hotline (02) 6289 2409 or email [pbs-Indigenous@health.gov.au](mailto:pbs-Indigenous@health.gov.au).