

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

INSTRUMENT NUMBER PB 45 OF 2019

NATIONAL HEALTH ACT 1953

National Health (Weighted average disclosed price – October 2019 reduction day) Determination 2019

Authority

This legislative instrument is made under subsection 99ADB(4) and paragraph 99ADH(1)(aa) of the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act), and makes certain determinations relating to price disclosure for brands of pharmaceutical items with a data collection period ending 31 March 2019 (2019 October Cycle).

Purpose

This legislative instrument determines a ‘weighted average disclosed price’ (WADP) for listed brands of pharmaceutical items in the 2019 October Cycle under subsection 99ADB(4) of the Act.

This legislative instrument also determines a reduction day of 1 October 2019 for listed brands in the 2019 October Cycle with a data collection period ending on 31 March 2019.

Part VII of the Act is the legislative basis for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) by which the Commonwealth provides reliable, timely, and affordable access to a wide range of medicines for all Australians.

Part VII, Division 3B of the Act deals with price disclosure. Price disclosure provides for the ‘approved ex-manufacturer price’ of a ‘brand of a pharmaceutical item’ to be reduced on a reduction day in specified circumstances. The reduction is based on sales revenue, incentives and volume data collected from responsible persons (drug companies) and occurs in accordance with the Act and the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 2017* (the Regulations).

A listed brand in Schedule 1 of this instrument will receive a price reduction for the listed brand on and from 1 October 2019 provided that the ‘approved ex-manufacturer price’ for the listed brand on 1 October 2019 would otherwise be more than its ‘adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price’ (i.e. an amount equal to its WADP): subsections 99ADH(3) and (4).

This legislative instrument is the fourth determination taking into account changes to the price disclosure arrangements made by the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits—Budget and Other Measures) Act 2018*. Under new subparagraph 99ADH(1)(c)(ii), where the drug and manner of administration of the pharmaceutical item has been on F2 for at least 42 months the threshold ‘unadjusted price reduction’ triggering a reduction has been increased to 30%. However, if the drug and manner of administration has already had two consecutive reductions under that subparagraph, the threshold returns to 10%.

Originator brands are determined by legislative instrument under subsection 99ADB(6B) of the Act. The current instrument is the *National Health (Originator Brand) Determination 2015 (PB 100 of 2015)*.

Subsection 99ADB(4) – ‘weighted average disclosed price’

Subsection 99ADB(4) of the Act provides that the Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine the WADP of a listed brand in accordance with the Regulations.

Subsection 99ADB(6) of the Act provides that the Regulations may prescribe a method for determining the WADP for a listed brand. The method may take into account information (if any) that has been provided in compliance with the price disclosure requirements, and any

other information, about the listed brand, other listed or delisted brands of the same pharmaceutical item, and all listed or delisted brands of all pharmaceutical items that have the same drug and manner of administration as the pharmaceutical item.

Part 7 of the Regulations provides the method for determining a WADP for a listed brand of pharmaceutical item for a 'data collection period'. 'Data collection period' is defined in section 99ADB(1) of the Act.

The Act and Regulations provide for brands that are part of the 2019 October Cycle. A brand is in the 2019 October Cycle if:

- the listed brand had a data collection period of six months or more on 31 March 2019;
- the brand was in the 2019 April Cycle; or
- the price disclosure requirements first apply to a brand on a day, and another brand with the same drug and manner of administration is in the 2019 October Cycle.

A brand of an exempt item (section 84AH of the Act) is excluded from price disclosure and so does not have data collected or a determination for a reduction day: section 99ADA of the Act.

The price for new brands of existing pharmaceutical items listed on the PBS after 31 March 2019 will be reduced as a flow-on reduction under section 99ADHA on 1 October 2019 if at least one existing brand of the same pharmaceutical item is in Schedule 1. No WADP or reduction day is determined for these listed brands.

Paragraph 99ADH(1)(c) – unadjusted price reduction for listed brand or no price reduction for listed brand on reduction day

Paragraph 99ADH(1)(c) of the Act (read with subsection 99ADH(3)) provides that a price reduction for a listed brand will not occur unless the 'unadjusted price reduction' for a listed brand is:

- if the drug and manner of administration of the pharmaceutical item has been on F2 for less than 42 months – at least 10% (subparagraph 99ADH(1)(c)(i)); and
- subject to subparagraph 99ADH(1)(c)(iii), if the drug and manner of administration of the pharmaceutical item has been on F2 for at least 42 months – at least 30% (subparagraph 99ADH(1)(c)(ii)); and
- if the drug and manner of administration of the pharmaceutical item has been on F2 for at least 42 months and has had 2 consecutive price reductions under 99ADH(1)(c)(ii) in relation to the brand of pharmaceutical item – at least 10% (subparagraph 99ADH(1)(c)(iii)).

The 'unadjusted price reduction' for a listed brand is defined in subsection 99ADB(1).

Listed brands where the unadjusted price reduction is calculated to be at least 10% or at least 30%, as applicable, appear in Schedule 1 to this instrument. Listed brands where the respective unadjusted price reduction is calculated as less than 10% or less than 30%, as applicable, appear in Schedule 2 to this instrument. Listed brands in Schedule 2 will not have a price disclosure related reduction on 1 October 2019.

Subsection 99ADB(4) – determining an 'adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price' for a listed brand in Schedule 1

Subsection 99ADB(7) provides that a subsection 99ADB(4) determination for a listed brand may include the 'adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price' for the brand.

It is the 'adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price' that is compared to what would otherwise be the current 'approved ex-manufacturer price' of a listed brand on reduction day: subsections 99ADH(3) and (4) of the Act.

In this instrument, where a WADP is determined for listed brands in Schedule 1, the 'adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price' is equal to the amount of the WADP. Since listed

brands in Schedule 2 will not have a reduction on 1 October 2019, the ‘adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price’ is not included in Schedule 2.

Paragraph 99ADH(1)(aa) – determining a reduction day

A price disclosure reduction day must be 1 April, 1 October, or another day prescribed under subsection 99ADH(2) of the Act. Section 66 of the Regulations provides that 1 August and 1 December are prescribed days.

In order for a price reduction to occur for a listed brand, one of the reduction days in the Act or prescribed in the Regulations must be determined for the listed brand under paragraph 99ADH(1)(aa) of the Act, or, the reduction must flow-on to the listed brand to match the reduction on the same date for another listed brand with the same pharmaceutical item, due to section 99ADHA of the Act.

This instrument determines 1 October 2019 as the reduction day for the relevant brands for the 2019 October Cycle.

Revocation

This instrument revokes the previous determination made under subsection 99ADB(4) and paragraph 99ADH(1)(aa) of the Act for the 2019 April Cycle (PB 109 of 2018) because listed brands in this cycle have had their reduction from this cycle. This revocation is done in accordance with subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*.

Consultation

This instrument affects certain pharmaceutical companies with medicines listed on the PBS. Pharmaceutical companies with a listed or delisted brand subject to the price disclosure requirements for the 2019 October Cycle disclosed information relevant to this determination directly to Australian Healthcare Associates Pty Ltd (AHA), known as the Price Disclosure Data Administrator (PDDA). AHA is prescribed in subsection 85(6) of the Regulations as the person to whom, in accordance with paragraph 99ADC(1)(a), a responsible person is to provide price disclosure information. The PDDA provided responsible persons with an opportunity to check that the information disclosed to the PDDA was translated correctly to PDDA data files. This was done prior to that data being used to apply the method set out in the Regulations to arrive at the WADP for listed brands.

Further consultation on this instrument than that set out above, was not considered necessary because affected pharmaceutical companies are provided with an opportunity to dispute any of the outcomes in the determination, through an industry agreed dispute resolution process. Any disputes are resolved through this mechanism prior to the reduction day.

Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

This instrument is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011

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This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

Overview of the Legislative Instrument

This *National Health (Weighted average disclosed price – October 2019 reduction day) Determination 2019* makes certain determinations relating to price disclosure for listed brands of pharmaceutical items with a data collection period ending 31 March 2019 (2019 October Cycle).

Part VII of the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act) is the legislative basis for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) by which the Commonwealth provides reliable, timely, and affordable access to a wide range of medicines for all Australians.

Part VII, Division 3B of the Act deals with price disclosure. Price disclosure provides for the ‘approved ex-manufacturer price’ of a ‘brand of a pharmaceutical item’ to be reduced on a reduction day in certain specified circumstances. The reduction is based on sales revenue, incentives and volume data collected from responsible persons (drug companies) and occurs in accordance with the Act and the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 2017*.

This legislative instrument determines a ‘weighted average disclosed price’ for listed brands in the 2019 October Cycle under subsection 99ADB(4) of the Act.

This legislative instrument also determines a reduction day of 1 October 2019 for listed brands in the 2019 October Cycle which are mentioned in Schedule 1 of this instrument.

A responsible person for a listed brand in Schedule 1 of this instrument, provided that the ‘approved ex-manufacturer price’ for the listed brand on 1 October 2019 is more than the ‘adjusted approved ex-manufacturer price’, will receive a price reduction for the listed brand on and from 1 October 2019: subsections 99ADH(3) and (4) of the Act.

Human rights implications

This legislative instrument engages Articles 2 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by assisting with the progressive realisation by all appropriate means of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The PBS is a benefit scheme which assists with advancement of this human right by providing for subsidised access by patients to medicines.

The price disclosure program progressively reduces the price of some PBS medicines which are subject to competition, ensuring better value for money from these medicines. These reductions may also result in patients accessing these medicines at lower prices.

Conclusion

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights because it advances the protection of human rights.

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