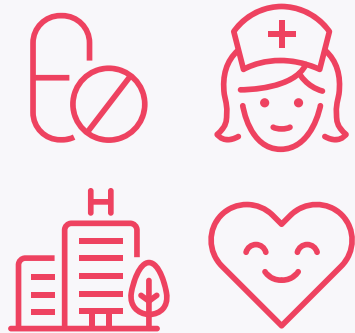


## Patient Voice Initiative

# CAN I GET THIS MEDICINE, MEDICAL SERVICE OR OTHER TREATMENTS IN AUSTRALIA?



There are several pathways to accessing medicines, treatments and other medical services. This tip sheet aims to make it easier for health consumers to know the status of a treatment as part of having an informed discussion about your options with your doctor.

For more detailed information about how each approval process works and how patients can have a voice visit our website:

[PATIENTVOICEINITIATIVE.ORG](https://patientvoiceinitiative.org)

### PATH ONE:

Find out if the Australian Government subsidises it to make it more affordable.



Anything on these lists has been approved for sale in Australia by the Therapeutics Goods Administration. If what you are looking for does not appear on any of the lists or is not listed for your condition, go to Path Two.

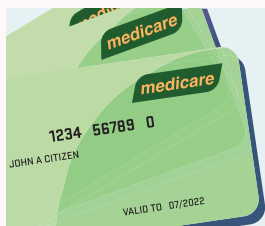


If the medicine is available at a subsidised price, it will be on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) list.

▶ See [pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing](https://pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing)

If it's not on the PBS list, its value may be being assessed by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee to see if it is recommended for the PBS list.

▶ See [pbs.gov.au/medicinesstatus/home.html](https://pbs.gov.au/medicinesstatus/home.html) to find out if a medicine is in this process.



If the medical service is available at a subsidised price, it will be on the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS).

▶ See [mbsonline.gov.au](https://mbsonline.gov.au)

If it's not on the Schedule, you can look here for the status of the application to have it on the MBS [msac.gov.au/internet/msac/publishing.nsf/Content/application-page](https://msac.gov.au/internet/msac/publishing.nsf/Content/application-page)



If the prosthesis (such as a stent, joint replacement, human tissue, other medical devices) is on the Prostheses List, your private health insurer may pay a benefit for it.

▶ See [www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-PLAC-subcommittees](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-PLAC-subcommittees)

## Find out if it has been approved for sale in Australia



Check the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) to see if the medicine or device is approved to be sold in Australia.

► See [tga.gov.au/australian-register-therapeutic-goods](https://www.tga.gov.au/australian-register-therapeutic-goods)

If it has been approved for sale in Australia it is usually available at full price. Each product will have an authorisation which details who can prescribe it and for which particular patients. If what you are looking for is not approved for sale or use in Australia or too expensive, you can discuss Path Three with your doctor.

**Warning:** Accessing products or services in Path 3 involves greater risk. If it is not on the ARTG it has not been assessed for safety in Australia. If it has not been subsidised, there may be uncertainties about the benefits and risks. Take time to discuss these issues with your doctor and loved ones.

## Other options



If the product you want is not approved for sale in Australia (listed on the ARTG) your doctor can apply to prescribe it under the Special Access Scheme.

► See [tga.gov.au/form/special-access-scheme](https://www.tga.gov.au/form/special-access-scheme).

Your doctor may also be able to apply through your hospital's Medicines Access Program. Or, you may be able to access it through the manufacturer under a Product Familiarisation Program or Compassionate Supply/Use. Contact the manufacturer for details.



To find out if there are clinical trials in Australia of the product or service you want.

► See [clinicaltrials.gov](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov) and [australianclinicaltrials.gov.au](https://www.australianclinicaltrials.gov.au).



If the product is not approved for sale in Australia, ask the manufacturer when they plan to submit (sponsor) the product to the Therapeutic Goods Administration. If it can be sold here, but was not approved for subsidy or has not been submitted for subsidy assessment ask the manufacturer when they plan to submit (sponsor) or re-submit the product.



In Australia, medicines, devices and other therapeutics are regulated for our safety. Imported products may not meet the safety standard. To find out about the laws and risks of importing, see [tga.gov.au/can-i-import-it](https://www.tga.gov.au/can-i-import-it) and for the personal import scheme, see [tga.gov.au/personal-importation-scheme](https://www.tga.gov.au/personal-importation-scheme). TGA also has some advice about buying online:

[tga.gov.au/buying-medicines-and-medical-devices-online](https://www.tga.gov.au/buying-medicines-and-medical-devices-online).

**Further information:** Talk to a patient group offering support in your area. Many have excellent knowledge and information to support you.