

# NSW Medicines Formulary: Information for GPs and community pharmacists

## What is the NSW Medicines Formulary?

The NSW Medicines Formulary (The Formulary) is a list of medicines approved for initiation in inpatients in NSW public hospitals and health services. The Formulary includes the approved indication, dose formulations and prescribing restrictions for individual medicines, where applicable.

The continually updated list of medicines has undergone a systematic, evidence-based evaluation process that considers appropriate, safe, and cost-effective medicines use. Medicines on the formulary are listed by their active ingredient. Brands are only included by exception if a clinical or safety need has been identified.

## What is the reason for transitioning to a state-wide formulary?

NSW Health facilities are transitioning from individual hospital formularies to a single state-wide formulary to support the management of medicines across NSW. The benefits of the Formulary include:

- Supporting clinical governance through streamlined formulary medicine decision-making and reduced duplication of effort
- Consistency of medicines use across NSW facilities
- Improving patient outcomes by supporting evidence-based use of medicines
- Enhancing supply chain resilience
- Using state-wide purchasing to obtain best value
- Improving medication safety and the ability to monitor medication use and outcomes
- Supporting data monitoring and feedback to clinicians and managers to enable the delivery of high-quality care.

## How will this impact patients' existing medicines?

Patients presenting to hospital on existing medicines will not be changed to formulary alternatives unless there is a clinical or safety reason to do so.

If your patient's usual medications have changed during a hospital stay, information about the reason for that change will be included in their discharge summary.

## How will this affect the use of medicines in primary care settings?

From July 2023, you may observe a shift in prescribing patterns as they align with medicines listed on the Formulary.

The main changes include a reduction in the number of:

- medicines within a class
- formulations and dose choices for a specified medicine
- medicines that include combination therapies

When a patient's medicine regimen is stabilised in the community, they may be transitioned to alternative dose formulations or combination therapies to assist with patient adherence or medicine costs.

Find more information on our [website](#), or [contact](#) our team.