Australian Government

Department of Health

PBS DATA DISTRIBUTION – SOFTWARE VENDOR WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES – 9 FEBRUARY 2021

DATE AND TIME	Tuesday, 9 February 2021 at 11:00AM – 1:00PM
VENUE	Microsoft Teams Call

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

AGENDA NO.	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED
1	**Welcome – see slide 3** Participants were welcomed, and provided with a brief background of the PBS Data Distribution project.
2	**Project Overview + Recap of last meeting (10th November 2020) – see slides 4-6** Participants were provided with a brief recap of the previous meeting and the goals of the PBS Data Distribution project. This included the project's current status, progress so far, planned outcomes, data model and a discussion about the API.
3	**Alpha API Feedback – see slides 7-9** An overview of the Alpha API feedback was provided. The Department received feedback from 9 separate organisations, resulting in 18 bugs being raised along with a series of related suggestions and requests. The Department provided the group with its first update since releasing the Alpha API including: • The addition of the January 2021 schedule • A fix to **manufacture codes** • A fix to **AMT codes** • A fix for **special characters** • An increase in the underlying API resources to cater for increased load. **Questions and comments:** • Some software vendor representatives did not receive the earlier update regarding the API update. **ACTION:** The Department will confirm distribution list membership. • There was general supportive feedback and thanks for the approach taken to date as well as a positive comment regarding the summary of changes. • A representative of the Australian Digital Health Agency asked if the Department has considered GraphQL. The Department acknowledged the trend towards GraphQL, however it does not have adequate adoption to replace REST as the most popular API protocol. The department is endeavouring to design an underlying solution that is protocol agnostic should the protocol-consensus change in the future.
4	**Discussion: Active Ingredient Prescribing – see slides 10-12** In advance of the meeting, a representative of the Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA) requested a conversation relating to the inclusion of the List of Excluded Medicinal

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	Items (LEMI) in the data distribution data project. The MSIA representative provided an overview of Active Ingredient Prescribing and the new LEMI Legislative Instrument and the List of Medicines for Brand Consideration (LMBC) lists. In the context of the Data Distribution project, only the LEMI was discussed. The Department provided a suggested approach for comment, relating to including a new LEMI table that lists PBS item and their start and end date. The response to this approach was generally positive with some participants suggesting that it may be more than they need (as opposed to a simple flag being added to the item table) but it was agreed the additional information would welcome. The group was very supportive and appreciative that this topic was raised in this forum and in a timely manner. There was a general discussion relating to the Active Prescribing and LEMI in general among the group, mainly between the MSIA representative and the rest of the participants.
5	**Discussion: Moving from Alpha to Beta – see slides 13-14** A brief overview of the Department's approach to continuing development of the Alpha API before transitioning to the Beta was provided. The Department will provide regular updates and releases, and testing from the software vendor working group members will continue. Additional background work will be undertaken by the Department to ensure that appropriate security measures and internal support mechanisms are implemented, as well as further content testing. There were no questions from the group.
6	**Next Steps – see slides 15-16** The planned next steps were explained to the group and it was reiterated that the testing and feedback is appreciated. The next working group meeting will be scheduled during the week commencing 8 March 2021. Any feedback can be sent to PBSdataproject@health.gov.au.
7	**Other Business and Close** There was general support and enthusiasm expressed among participants to begin testing the Alpha API. The meeting was closed.