# **Other Business – for discussion if time permits**

# Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

We are inviting PBS dispensing software vendors to consider developing AIR functionality to support their pharmacy clients.

Information about AIR:

1. The AIR can only receive immunisation data from recognised vaccination providers (parents cannot update the AIR). The AIR is dependent on recognised vaccination providers sending correct data in a timely manner.
2. The quickest and easiest way for recognised vaccination providers to update the AIR is using software.
3. Most state and territory health departments are investigating changes to legislation that will require all recognised vaccination providers to report immunisation data to the AIR.
4. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia are lobbying to expand the range of vaccines approved to be given in pharmacies.
5. Recognised vaccination providers administering the National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccinations are required by their state and territory health departments to report all vaccinations to the AIR.
6. Customers are reliant on accurate and timely immunisation data being sent from vaccination providers to the AIR for:
   * Family payments such as Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A, under No Jab No Pay legislation.
   * AIR Immunisation History Statements which are required for child care and school entry under state and territory No Jab, No Play legislation.
7. Department of Health uses AIR data to:
   * respond rapidly to disease outbreaks / public health emergencies eg identifying members of the public who cannot be immunised (eg cancer patients) during disease outbreaks to make sure they’re isolated or their families are immunised
   * determine funding for state and territory health departments
   * report to the Minister for Health
   * report to the World Health Organisation
   * inform immunisation research and policy, and track vaccination usage.

The web services required to enable AIR functionality in pharmacies include:

* + Identify individual including Medicare number, name, address, date of birth, indigenous status
  + View an individual’s immunisation history
  + Record encounter
  + Update encounter
  + Record a catch up schedule
  + Print an immunisation history statement
  + Set a return mail indicator.

# Contracted Service Provider (CSP) model for PBS Online

We are investigating a Contracted Service Provider model for PBS Online through which a third party (eg a software vendor) submits PBS Online transactions on behalf of a pharmacy/pharmacies.

A contracted service provider (CSP) provides IT services to approved pharmacies and interacts with PBS Online on the pharmacies’ behalf using the CSP’s identity. The CSP will need to register in PRODA.

Once the CSP has entered into a contract with an approved pharmacy, the CSP will log into PRODA and link the pharmacy approval number to the PBS Online channel.

We are still investigating how we will know/record that the CSP is authorised to act on behalf of the approved pharmacy for PBS Online transactions.

The table below highlights the key differences between a Client System (CS) and CSP software:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CS and CSP Software** | **CS** | **CSP software** |
| User | Used by pharmacy | Used by a CSP (organisation) who operates on behalf of the pharmacy |
| Interactions with PBS Online | Pharmacy **interacts directly** with their pharmacy PRODA credentials | CSP interacts **on behalf of** the pharmacy with the CSP’s PRODA credentials |
| PRODA Registration | Pharmacy:   * registers with PRODA * links pharmacy approval number to PBS Online channel * activates pharmacy software instance * See Attachment A | CSP:   * registers with PRODA * links pharmacy approval number to PBS Online channel * activates CSP software instance * See Attachment B |
| PRODA Software Instance management | Pharmacy renews pharmacy software instance in PRODA every 6 months | CSP renews CSP software instance in PRODA every 6 months |

# Reduction of the 90 day adjustment period

When a pharmacy has successfully closed a claim period through their dispensing system, they are able to continue to make changes to prescriptions up to 90 days from the date of claim closure. In discussions with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia we could not identify a business need for a 90 day adjustment period once a claim period has been closed. Business reasons identified for adjusting a prescription would normally occur while the claim period is still open or shortly after closing the claim.

In conjunction with the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services is proposing to reduce the timeframe for adjustments from 90 days to 30 days after claim closure. This will reduce the number of prescriptions that are moving between claim periods which in turn will improve Health and Human Services reporting and reduce payment reconciliation issues for pharmacies. It will also provide increased stability of PBS prescription data on patients’ My Health Records.

We would appreciate your thoughts on the impact of a reduction of the adjustment period to 30 days after claim closure.

# Duplicate UPPNs

Thank you to those vendors who have provided their thoughts on this issue – we are still open to input from other vendors on UPPN issues impacting clients or suggested solutions.

We have been investigating PBS Online system capabilities and limitations in regard to identifying and managing duplicate UPPNs, and the cost/benefit/opportunity for system changes, however we are not yet ready for further discussion on this topic. We will endeavour to document our findings and seek vendor input prior to the next DHS PBS Vendor Forum teleconference.

Attachment A



**PRODA setup – for pharmacy**

1. Company Director does individual registration in PRODA
   * Personal details
   * Identity documents for online verification
2. Company Director registers organisation in PRODA
   * ABN
   * Company details

Details of company and director are checked against the ATO Australian Business Register.

1. Staff member/s does individual registration in PRODA
   * Personal details
   * Identity documents for online verification
2. Company Director assigns staff member/s as delegate/s and assigns attributes/functions eg link services
3. Company Director or delegate/s link PRODA organisation to PBS Online channel using
   * pharmacy approval number
   * PKI Certificate RA number (for existing pharmacies)
4. When the pharmacy dispensing system (PDS) is upgraded for web services/PRODA, the delegate will register the pharmacy device in PRODA.

The device name and device activation code are entered into the PDS prior to first PBS Online transaction using web services.

Attachment B



**PRODA setup – for Contracted Service Provider (CSP) model**

1. Company Director for CSP does individual registration in PRODA
   * Personal details
   * Identity documents for online verification
2. Company Director registers organisation in PRODA
   * ABN
   * Company details

Details of company and director are checked against the ATO Australian Business Register.

1. CSP Staff member/s does individual registration in PRODA
   * Personal details
   * Identity documents for online verification
2. Company Director assigns CSP staff member/s as delegate/s and assigns attributes/functions eg link services
3. Once the CSP has entered into a contract with an approved pharmacy, Company Director or nominated Delegate/s link CSP PRODA organisation to PBS Online channel, for the pharmacy they will be submitting claims on behalf of, using
   * pharmacy approval number
   * PKI Certificate RA number (for existing pharmacies)
4. Step 5 is repeated for all pharmacies for which the CSP has entered into a contract and will submit PBS Online claims ‘on behalf of’
5. When the CSP/pharmacy dispensing system (PDS) is upgraded for web services/PRODA, the CSP delegate will register the CSP device being used to submit PBS Online transactions on behalf of the pharmacy in PRODA.

The CSP device name and device activation code are entered into the PDS prior to first PBS Online transaction using web services.