



# Changes to the NDSS from 1 July 2016

From 1 July 2016, there will be changes to the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS). These changes will continue to enable people living with diabetes to access the products they need. The current arrangements for accessing products from the NDSS will remain in place until 30 June 2016.

There are no changes to the cost or types of products available under the NDSS, but the way you access these products may change. You will still be able to access NDSS products through your local participating NDSS community pharmacy. At present there are over 4,800 community pharmacies which are NDSS Access Points across Australia, you can find your nearest NDSS pharmacy by calling the NDSS Infoline on 1300 136 588.

NDSS education services provided by Diabetes Australia and its state and territory agents will continue.

## What are the changes from 1 July 2016?

- People with diabetes will continue to access NDSS products such as needles, syringes, blood glucose test strips and urine test strips from NDSS community pharmacies. In addition, from 1 July 2016 insulin pump consumables will be available from NDSS community pharmacies.
- The range of products available will not change, nor will the copayment you are required to pay.
- NDSS products will no longer be available in the current way from Diabetes Australia or local state and territory diabetes organisations (this includes via state and territory diabetes organisation shops and websites, and the NDSS 1300 number).
- Insulin pump consumables will be available from NDSS community pharmacies. Where a pharmacy does not stock the insulin pump consumables required, they can be ordered by the pharmacy and delivered to the pharmacy within 24 hours.
- NDSS products will be supplied to NDSS community pharmacies using the same distribution network that pharmacies use to receive medicines. Aligning these delivery channels will streamline the way products are delivered to pharmacies and allow for faster and more efficient delivery.
- Support and advice from Diabetes Australia and local state and territory diabetes organisations about NDSS products will continue to be provided to all NDSS registrants over the phone and through ongoing education programs. This will include training for NDSS community pharmacies on supplying insulin pump consumables.

## Changes to Access to Blood Glucose Test Strips

- From 1 July 2016, there will be changes to access to blood glucose test strips under the NDSS. These changes will not affect people with diabetes using insulin or women with gestational diabetes.
- People with **type 2 diabetes not using insulin** will receive an initial six month supply of subsidised blood glucose test strips under the NDSS. After six months, they will only be eligible for further access to subsidised test strips if their doctor or other authorised health professional considers it clinically necessary to use test strips.

- This change follows the independent advice of the expert Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee which recommended restrictions to access to blood glucose test strips based on research including the results of a Post Market Review on products used in the management of diabetes which found there is limited evidence that self-monitoring of blood glucose improves blood glucose control, quality of life or long-term complications in people with **type 2 diabetes who are not using insulin**.
- Restrictions will come into effect six months from the date of a NDSS Registrant's first test strip purchase from 1 July 2016. This will be automatically recorded on the NDSS system accessed by pharmacies when supplying products to Registrants. The initial six month access period applies to both new and existing NDSS registrants. Even where a registrant has been accessing test strips for several years, their six month initial access period will commence from their first order of test strips on or after 1 July 2016.
- There is no limit on the number of extensions to access that may be obtained from your authorised health professional.

For questions, contact Diabetes Australia on 1300 136 588 or your local state/territory diabetes organisation in the first instance. More information is available at [www.health.gov.au/diabetes-services](http://www.health.gov.au/diabetes-services), including answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Yours sincerely



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