

Name:

Date:

Accessing novel and emerging medicines in hospital

This explains the approval process when your healthcare team thinks using a novel or emerging medicine is a possible choice.

Novel = new

Emerging = developing

“Novel and emerging medicines”
are medicines undergoing study or approval.



Scan or
click here to
learn more.

[Guide to understanding novel
and emerging medicines](#)

The role of Medicines and Therapeutic Committees

A doctor may need to ask for approval to use a novel or emerging medicine. This application will go to a group of experts called a Medicines and Therapeutics Committee (MTC). The MTC looks at:



- the medical history and why the medicine could help
- the quality and safety evidence of the medicine
- the cost of the medicine
- if there are any other treatment choices.

Be prepared that:



- the approval process may take one to two months, or sometimes longer
- not all applications are approved
- if approved, the hospital may need time to get the medicine
- if approved, the medicine may need to show it works within a set time, so we can keep using it
- you may only be able to get the medicine from the hospital that approved its use.

The healthcare team will talk about the process and how long it may take.

Your team may consist of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers/Practitioners).

What happens next

If the medicine does not get approved:

The healthcare team will talk about what other choices are available.

If the medicine does get approved:

A member of the healthcare team will talk about:



- how long the approval will last
- when the MTC will talk about its use again
- how and when to get the medicine
- how to take or give the medicine
- how to know if the medicine is working
- the possible side effects and what to do if they happen.

Because we are still learning about this type of medicine the team may record:



- how well it is working
- any side effects
- test results (e.g. blood tests, scans)
- age, sex, illness, and any other illnesses.

The healthcare team will talk about this before you start the medicine.

This process can be long, but it aims to deliver the safest and best treatment choices.



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Consent



The use of a novel or emerging medicine is not a standard treatment. To show that everyone knows the benefits and risks, the hospital may ask you to sign a consent form.

If you want to stop the medicine, talk with your doctor about the best way to do this.

Do I have to pay for the medicine?



The hospital will let you know about any costs.

Some novel and emerging medicines may be available through a Medicine Access Program. The hospital will let you know if this is possible.



Scan or click here to learn more.

[Understanding Medicine Access Programs](#)

Where to get the medicine



The team will talk about where to get the medicine. In most cases, the hospital will find, store and supply the medicine. If you live in a remote area, you may need to collect it from a local pharmacy or health centre.

Talk to the team if you plan to move, travel or change hospitals. You may need a new approval.

Where to get more information



The medicines information sheet may be translated from a different language if the medicine is from overseas. If this is unclear, or if you have questions, talk to the healthcare team.

If you feel you need support talking to your healthcare team, you can ask for help from:

- family
- friends
- a carer, or
- a trusted patient support person.

Please be aware that details found online about the medicine may not be correct because they:

- may not be relevant to Australia
- could relate to a different illness
- may not be from a trusted source.



Scan or click here to learn more.

[Finding good health information online](#)

Talk to a member of the healthcare team if you have any questions.

My novel or emerging medicine

Medicine:

This medicine will treat:
(add patient's illness)

If you have any questions about your medicines, please call:

Name:

Telephone:

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