

10 September 2024

Assoc Prof Catherine McDougall
Chief Medical Officer
Queensland Health

By email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Expansion of doctors' bags

Dear Catherine

As previously discussed, AMA Queensland is committed to supporting initiatives that increase patient access to health services, including medicines. We note early access to medicines ensures commencement of treatment and continuity of care, improving health outcomes.

Members have raised with us that expanding the range of medicines currently available via doctors' bags would greatly increase access for patients, particularly those in regional, rural and remote services, after hours when pharmacies are often closed and during emergencies. Our Committee of General Practice has suggested medicines for the Department's consideration, set out in the enclosure.

We understand Queensland Health would need to examine the associated legislative requirements to enable the scope of practice expansion, including amendment of the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021* and possible requisite Commonwealth changes to the current National Health (Prescriber Bag Supplies) Determination 2024. We offer our assistance in progressing reform on this issue for the benefit of all Queensland patients.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dr Nick Yim
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland

Enclosure: Expanded doctors' bags medicines

- Antibiotics (including syrups)
 - Amoxicillin
 - Cefalexin
 - Trimethoprim
 - Doxycycline
 - Azithromycin
 - Ceftriaxone
 - Mupirocin
- Antivirals
 - Valacyclovir
 - Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- Anti-nausea
 - Ondansetron
- Routine steroids
 - Inhaled corticosteroids
 - Prednisone (including syrup)
- Ear and eye drops
 - Framycetin sulfate 0.5% + gramicidin 0.005% + dexamethasone 0.05% ear drops (Sofradex)
 - Chloramphenicol eye drops
- Cardiovascular
 - Amlodipine
 - Perindopril
- Analgesia
 - Paracetamol
 - Ibuprofen
- Smoking cessation
 - Nicotine replacement therapies
- Gynaecology
 - Mifepristone and misoprostol (MS-2 Step)
 - Oral contraceptive pill – 1 month supply
 - Levonorgestrel emergency contraception