

PBS criteria for lipid-lowering drugs: Very high risk patients

Patients in very high risk categories may commence drug therapy with statins or fibrates immediately (i.e. simultaneously with an appropriate diet). For all other patients, dietary therapy should be trialled prior to initiation of drug therapy.

Dietary therapy should be continued concurrently with pharmacological therapy and should be reviewed on at least an annual basis.

Very high risk patients who may commence drug therapy with statins or fibrates at any cholesterol level (concurrent with diet):

- coronary heart disease which has become symptomatic
- cerebrovascular disease which has become symptomatic
- peripheral vascular disease which has become symptomatic
- diabetes mellitus with microalbuminuria (defined as urinary albumin excretion rate of > 20 mcg/min or urinary albumin to creatinine ratio of > 2.5 for males, > 3.5 for females)
- diabetes mellitus in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients
- diabetes mellitus in patients aged 60 years or more
- family history of coronary heart disease which has become symptomatic before the age of 55 years in **two or more** first-degree relatives
- family history of coronary heart disease which has become symptomatic before the age of 45 years in **at least one** first-degree relative.

Adapted from the General Statement for Lipid-lowering Drugs Prescribed as Pharmaceutical Benefits, 1 November 2007.