

PBS criteria for lipid-lowering drugs: Patients other than very high risk

Patients who do not fall in any of the very high risk categories eligible for PBS subsidy may still qualify if, after 6 weeks of dietary therapy, they satisfy the following criteria:

Patients with diabetes mellitus not otherwise included:

Total cholesterol > 5.5 mmol/L

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients or patients with hypertension:

Total cholesterol > 6.5 mmol/L or

Total cholesterol > 5.5 mmol/L and HDL cholesterol < 1 mmol/L

Patients with HDL cholesterol <1mmol/L:

Total cholesterol > 6.5 mmol/L

Patients with familial hypercholesterolaemia identified by:

DNA mutation; or tendon xanthomas in the patient or their first- or second-degree relative.

Patients with family history of coronary heart disease which has become symptomatic before the age of 60 years in one or more first-degree relatives; or family history of coronary heart disease which has become symptomatic before the age of 50 years in one or more second-degree relatives.

If aged 18 years or less at treatment initiation:

LDL cholesterol > 4 mmol/L

If aged more than 18 years at treatment initiation:

LDL cholesterol > 5 mmol/L or

Total cholesterol > 6.5 mmol/L or

Total cholesterol > 5.5 mmol/L and HDL cholesterol < 1 mmol/L

Patients not eligible under the above:

Men aged 35 to 75 years

Post-menopausal women aged up to 75 years

Total cholesterol > 7.5 mmol/L or triglyceride > 4 mmol/L

Patients not otherwise included:

Total cholesterol > 9 mmol/L or triglyceride > 8 mmol/L

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