

# Fact Sheet: Reforms for Vaccines



The HTA Review recommends streamlining HTA review of vaccines to reduce the time to listing for these important preventative technologies.

Key to the Review's recommendation is the proposed restructuring of the National Immunisation Program (NIP) listing process to align Australia Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and PBAC processes, and proportionate review based on complexity of the submission and the risks and benefits of the vaccine.

The Review also recommends a proactive vaccine assessment pathway and a reduction in the discount rate.

The current assessment of vaccines involves early advice from ATAGI followed by a recommendation for reimbursement by the PBAC, then a lengthy process for entry onto the NIP. Compared with the 17-week cycle for the assessment of medicines, the assessment of vaccines takes a minimum of 48 weeks.

Recommendations 11 and 12 aim to reduce the time taken for Australians to gain access to new vaccines on the NIP:

- Restructuring of the vaccine assessment process to align ATAGI and PBAC processes. Sponsors will no longer need to apply to ATAGI first and can apply directly to the PBAC. ATAGI will provide advice during the evaluation process via the PBAC's Economic Sub-Committee (Recommendation 11).
- Development of a framework that will allow vaccine reimbursement applications to be triaged according to complexity, risk and benefit, and apply a proportionate appraisal process to less complex submissions (Recommendation 11).
- A single front door for vaccine applications to the TGA, ATAGI and PBAC (Recommendation 11).
- A proactive vaccines assessment pathway to consider how new products or potential vaccines program changes could impact disease burden and inform proactive inviting for submissions or tendering (Recommendation 12).

In addition, the recommendation to lower the discount rate to 3.5% for health technologies with high upfront costs and long-term benefits (Recommendation 39) will help to better capture the value of vaccines.