

## General Practitioners: Authority Script and Affirmed Men (female-to-male)

When Medicare has accepted the sex marker amendment from 'female' to 'male' for your female-to-male (FTM) patient, he becomes eligible to obtain his testosterone under Authority Script. The current state and national legislation covering the amendment of birth certificates provides legal support under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medicare.

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### Medicare

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Medicare will amend the sex marker for men (identified 'female' at birth) on Medicare enrolment from 'female' to 'male' with any of the following documentation:

- An amended/re-issued Birth Certificate showing the male gender – Australian and Foreign birth certificates accepted; or
- A recognition certificate issued by the relevant state or territory Births, Deaths and Marriages agency confirming the male gender; or
- A letter from a Medical Practitioner confirming the individual has undergone surgery related to gender reassignment; or
- A current passport showing the male gender – Australian or Foreign passports are accepted.

– Medicare advice received (2008)

When Medicare has amended his sex marker to male, he is eligible under the PBS to obtain his testosterone medication with an Authority Script like any other male in Australia.

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### PBS Authority Prescription Eligibility Criteria for Testosterone

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The PBS provides the following criteria to prescribe testosterone on an Authority Script. Once your patient is registered male with Medicare, he is eligible under either of the first two criteria according to these descriptors:

Androgen deficiency in males with established pituitary or testicular disorders;

Androgen deficiency in males 40 years and older who do not have established pituitary or testicular disorders other than aging, confirmed by at least 2 morning blood samples taken on different mornings. Androgen deficiency is confirmed by testosterone less than 8 nmol per L, or 8-15 nmol per L with high LH (greater than 1.5 times the upper limit of the eugonadal reference range for young men);

Micropenis, pubertal induction, or constitutional delay of growth or puberty, in males under 18 years of age.

– PBS General Schedule, <http://www.pbs.gov.au/>

As part of his gender affirmation treatment, your female-to-male (FTM) patient will require life-long testosterone administration to maintain the health of his bones, skin, hair and brain functioning. This becomes particularly significant, once he has had a total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral oophorectomy.

#### About FTM Australia

FTM Australia is the national Australian network of men (identified 'female' at birth) and provides contact, support and health information to members, their families, friends and healthcare providers since 2001. Your patient receives support and health information from FTM Australia. We are also available to answer your questions as well. [www.ftmaustralia.org](http://www.ftmaustralia.org) – [mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto:mail@ftmaustralia.org) – (02) 9566-4110