

Guide for requesting changes to the Queensland Health List of Approved Medicines (LAM)

Queensland Health is committed to safe, rational and cost effective use of therapeutic substances to benefit patients of its institutions, and supports Quality Use of Medicines principles.

The Queensland Health List of Approved Medicines (LAM) is the official statewide formulary for all medicines and pharmaceutical preparations approved for use in Queensland public hospitals and institutions. It is a limited list of medicines created, maintained and reviewed by the Queensland Health Medicines Advisory Committee (QHMAC), which consists of representatives from a range of different specialities and health professions, within Queensland Health (QH). The QH LAM, which includes the alphabetical list of medicines, the LAM submission form and related policies and documents can be accessed via the QH intranet or the internet.

This guide has been produced to answer some common questions for Queensland Health professional staff who are intending to apply for an addition or change to medicines in the QH LAM.

Who can request changes to the LAM?

Any Queensland Health professional staff member can request a change to the LAM. Requests are not accepted directly from pharmaceutical manufacturers or their agents. It is expected that applications for medicines will include input from a senior prescriber.

What changes to the LAM can I request?

A request can be made to include a new medicine or new strength or formulation of an existing medicine on the LAM, to change the current restriction, indication or guideline of an included medicine, or to delete a medicine or preparation from the LAM.

How do I make a LAM submission?

Changes should be requested by completing either the standard or, in limited circumstances, a minor submission form. A standard submission form is available online or from your local pharmacy department. A minor submission form can be obtained through contacting the QHMAC Secretariat.

Staff are also encouraged to flag potential issues regarding the use of medicines or pharmaceuticals within Queensland Health by writing to QHMAC, with evidence attached.

What information should I supply when I complete the standard submission form?

In considering requests QHMAC acts in accordance with the principles of evidence based medicine and promotes the quality use of medicines. QHMAC requires information on **effectiveness**, **safety** and **cost-effectiveness** of the item being requested, particularly in comparison to the current 'gold standard' of therapy, where such a comparison is available. QHMAC also requires information on the likely cost impact for Queensland Health, such as your estimate of **projected usage**, preferably statewide usage. If any of the requested information is not provided, a delay in the consideration of your request may result.

Literature supporting the request should also be attached to the submission. The highest level of evidence available should be presented to QHMAC. For more details on levels of evidence, see the NHMRC website.

Although requests made directly by the pharmaceutical industry are not accepted, information provided by the pharmaceutical industry can be provided in support of a request. However, it is preferable to identify the pharmaceutical industry as the source of this information, if used in a request. Sometimes, the only available cost-effectiveness data is from the pharmaceutical manufacturer. Correspondence between the manufacturer and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) economics area are very useful. An idea of cost impact on Queensland Health may be as valuable as a full formal economic analysis.

Who do I send the LAM submission form to?

1. If your hospital or institution has a local Medicines Advisory Committee (MAC), the completed standard submission form and supporting information should be sent to them. The local MAC will consider your request and forward it to QHMAC with their recommendation.
2. If your hospital does not have a local MAC, then the completed standard submission form (and supporting information) should be sent to your local Medical Superintendent and Director of Pharmacy for their comments, **PRIOR** to emailing or sending it to QHMAC.

If comments from the local hospital MAC (or the Medical Superintendent and Director of Pharmacy) are not provided, a delay in consideration of your request may result while the QHMAC seeks local opinion.

How will I know the result of my submission?

When your submission is received it will be included in the next available agenda for QHMAC to consider and make a recommendation to the committee sponsor. Following the sponsor's approval we will write to advise you of the outcome of your request. QHMAC meetings are usually held monthly. Often QHMAC requires further information on a request which may delay a recommendation being made.

What can I do if I do not agree with the recommendation made by QHMAC?

If your request is not successful, QHMAC will provide some reasoning behind the recommendation. This should give you an indication of what further information you could provide in order to have the recommendation reconsidered. You can make a further submission at any time in the future, if you believe you can provide further evidence to support your request.

How do I contact QHMAC?

QHMAC can be contacted by mail or email.

Address: Executive Secretary, QHMAC
Medication Services Queensland
GPO Box 48
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Email: QHMAC-Secretariat@health.qld.gov.au