



Prescriber Newsletter 2

March 2012

Hi again to all prescribers – just keeping you up-to-date with all the changes at the Statewide Equipment Program (SWEP). This issue has links to the new Prescription Forms (including the new Low Cost Item forms), information about new HACC funding for low cost items on the waiting list, and some tips for making sure your application is acted on promptly.

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter, please send it to me at wendyh@bhs.org.au and I will endeavour to include your story in the next edition. We would also like to pass on any education programs available in the prescription of Assistive Technology which may be happening, so please let us know if you have anything coming up and we will post it on the web-site.

Update on registration and credentialing processes:

The current breakdown of registered prescribers by discipline appears below.

Discipline	Registrants
Continence Nurses (includes Urology Nurses)	246
Orthotists	133
Occupational Therapists	1503
Podiatrists	240
Physiotherapists	1265
Speech Pathologists	74

I continue to welcome queries about credentialed status to ensure the most appropriate level of recognition is applied.

Prescriber Manuals are still under development, and will appear on the web-site as the formatting is completed.

Chemtronics is now contracted to SWEP for the **repair, maintenance, and re-issue** of all SWEP assets – this link takes you to the latest information about the current status {<http://swep.bhs.org.au/sites/default/files/forms/SWEP%20RR%26M%20Update%20Mar%202012.pdf>}. The re-issue database is currently being trialed, and very soon all prescribers will be able to access the database on the web using their prescriber number.

We understand that **trial equipment** continues to be a problem for prescribers, and SWEP is continuing our discussions with the Independent Living Centre and Chemtronics.

We are pleased to announce that SWEP has been allocated **new HACC funding** to immediately fund some of the low cost items currently on the waiting list for people over 65 years. Allocation of these funds has commenced and you and your clients may soon be contacted to ensure the current scripts are still relevant, and to confirm delivery and other details. As many of these items have been prescribed some time ago, items purchased under this funding are being delivered to the prescribing organisation with client names and contact details clearly marked on the delivery docket. This is in response to prescriber feedback that the items must be set-up appropriately and assessed to ensure they continue to meet client needs. SWEP will endeavour to stagger supply over the next three months to prevent over-burdening prescribers, and will explain to clients that prescribers may not be able to fit them in quickly.

SOME TIPS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS

Lodging and submitting your application is done through five different options including:

1. By post
 - PO Box 1993, Bakery Hill 3354
2. By fax
 - (03) 5333 8111
3. By email (ensuring that you do not include any identifying client information in the subject line). SWEP's practice is not to use client names in the subject line. You may still use the previous email address, but please note that this has been modified to remove the underscore, as this was often left out causing unnecessary loss of scripts or delays. The new email is:
 - SWEPcentralintake@bhs.org.au
4. Through the 'Connecting Care' secure messaging and e-referral system.
 - Imminent – the site is ready but requires activation with the new Scripts.
5. Through the secure 'S2S' Service coordination messaging and e-referral system (in development)

Please note, that regardless of your preferred lodgment system, all applications regardless of program type, are received by SWEP Central Intake and allocated to the relevant programs for triage.

New prescription forms (including a new form for Low Cost Items) are now on the web-site and should be used from now on. This link will take you to the reference table {<http://swep.bhs.org.au/node/425> }. SWEP will continue to accept prescriptions on the previous scripts, but note that the new ones have:

- Expanding free text boxes - scroll bars have been removed so that all text can be viewed once printed
- Dedicated fields for supplier and product codes
- Inclusion of a field for delivery instructions
- Barcodes for ease of filing at SWEP

Priority of Access Guidelines are available on this link { <http://swep.bhs.org.au/node/429> }, and further examples are in progress. Please take the time to read the Guidelines and use the “Implications of Non-Provision” section on the prescription forms. ***If you fill out all three sections with potential consequences of non-provision and likelihood of that occurring we can prioritise your client’s equipment needs.***

Always **attach your quote**, to make sure we can process your application in a timely way. It makes things much easier when they arrive together.

Only fill in the **Eligibility Form** for new clients. This only has to be done once for each disability so if your client has had equipment for the same problem previously we don’t need another one.

Please continue to provide your **feedback** on the functioning of the SWEP and we will endeavour to constantly improve our service to you and your clients.

Wendy Hubbard
Chief Allied Health Officer – SWEP