



**ACT**  
Government

**Canberra Health  
Services**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Changes to co-payments for ACT public hospital cancer patients receiving chemotherapy medications**

I am writing to you about a change in ACT Government policy relating to charges for some medications involved in treatment of cancer. ACT public hospital cancer patients will receive more financial support during their chemotherapy treatments, with the ACT Government delivering on its commitment to meet the cost of chemotherapy medications for the treatment of cancer.

As a result of this change, ACT patients are no longer being charged the co-payment specified in the Australian Government Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, for medications used directly for chemotherapy provided in ACT public hospitals. This does not include the supportive treatments, for example medicines for nausea.

The change took effect on 6 August 2018. However, some patients have since been charged the co-payment for some of their oral medications. Our records indicate that you may be eligible for a credit or account reversal for any applicable co-payments charged.

No action is required from you to receive your credit. Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce are working closely with Slade Pharmacy to identify all affected patients and adjust the balance on their account appropriately:

- If you have been charged a co-payment for oral chemotherapy medications received since 6 August 2018, and have already paid it, Slade Pharmacy has agreed to credit the amount to your account.
- If you have received an invoice and have not yet paid the co-payment, Slade has agreed to adjust your invoice and send you an updated invoice where applicable.

Any changes as a result of this announcement will be finalised before the end of 2018 and reflected in your next Slade Pharmacy account in January 2019.

I apologise for any inconvenience you may have experienced as a result of this change. If you have any concerns or queries on this matter, please contact James Robinson, Executive Officer, Division of Clinical Support Services on (02) 5124 7135 between normal business hours Monday to Friday. Where your call is unable to be answered immediately, please leave a message with your contact details and we will respond to you the next working day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Bone', written in a cursive style.

Chris Bone  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

22 November 2018