



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

9 JUN 2022

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to petition number 3705-22, tabled in Parliament on 10 May 2022, in relation to the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland.

The Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland (UTIPP-Q) was implemented as part of the Government Response to the recommendations made by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in *Report No. 12, 56th Parliament, Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership in Queensland* (the Inquiry) in 2018. Queensland Health engaged a consortium, led by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), to develop, implement and evaluate the UTIPP-Q.

Legislative approval for the UTIPP-Q was initially provided via a Drug Therapy Protocol under the now repealed *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*. Current authorisation is provided under the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021* through [Part 2 \(Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland \(UTIPP-Q\) Circumstances and conditions\) of the Extended Practice Authority – Pharmacists Version 1](#) (the Pharmacists EPA Part 2).

The Pharmacists EPA Part 2 authorises participating pharmacists to sell and supply specified medicines without a prescription for the treatment of an uncomplicated urinary tract infection for the duration of the UTIPP-Q.

The endorsed model of care for UTIPP-Q enables a pharmacist, registered with the UTIPP-Q and who has completed the requisite training, to provide empirical treatment for a urinary tract infection in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia *Guidance for provision of antibiotics for acute uncomplicated cystitis in women*. Using a decision-making protocol, pharmacists are able to select the most appropriate treatment from a choice of three antibiotics. Patients are advised to seek further medical review if symptoms persist beyond 48-76 hours of commencement of antibiotic therapy. The cost of the pharmacist consultation was set at \$19.95 for the UTIPP-Q.

The UTIPP-Q commenced on 19 June 2020 and was due to be completed on 31 December 2021. The pilot was extended for a further six months, until 30 June 2022, while the final report was prepared, and the findings considered by the Queensland Government.

A final decision and the release of the evaluation report will occur in the near future.

I understand that the Department of Health is currently considering the outcomes of the UTIPP-Q service evaluation and will continue to work with the pilot evaluators, participating pharmacists and consumers to seek feedback on the service to inform policy decisions regarding whether the model of care should continue as usual practice.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette D'ATH', written in a cursive style.

YVETTE D'ATH MP
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