

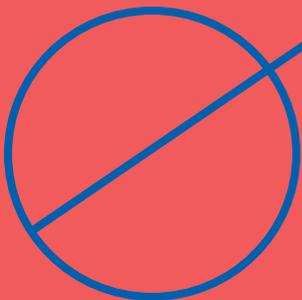


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Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Program

A guide for general practitioners,
other community-based
medical practitioners
and nurse practitioners

TRAINING | ACCREDITATION | PRESCRIBING | MAINTENANCE



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This guide contains all you need to know about becoming a Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber and maintaining your prescribing status.

The guide is intended for:

- General practitioners, other community-based medical practitioners, and nurse practitioners who wish to be accredited to prescribe s100 drugs for the treatment of hepatitis B virus (HBV);
- General practitioners, other community-based medical practitioners, and nurse practitioners who are authorised to provide HBV s100 therapy, and who wish to maintain and renew their accreditation

Note: This guide contains hyperlinks and is best viewed online as a PDF.

Background

Section 1. Background

Hepatitis B medicines may be prescribed, dispensed, and accessed under the Australian Government Department of Health's **Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program**, which has its legislative basis in section 100 (s100) of the National Health Act 1953. The HSD Program provides access to specialised Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for the treatment of chronic conditions which, because of their clinical use and other special features, have restrictions on where they can be prescribed and supplied. In most cases, general practitioners, other community-based medical practitioners, and nurse practitioners are required to undertake specific training or be affiliated with a specialised hospital unit to prescribe these medicines.

ASHM's Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course meets the national standard for the training of general practitioners, other community-based medical practitioners, and nurse practitioners who wish to prescribe medicines for hepatitis B.

General practitioners, other community-based medical practitioners, and nurse practitioners who have completed the relevant training (see [section 2.1.1](#)) or received recognition for prior experience (see [section 2.2](#)) may apply to the accreditation agency in their jurisdiction for authority to prescribe medicines for hepatitis B.

- **ASHM** is the accrediting agency in all Australian jurisdictions other than Victoria.
- **Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training And Learning (VHHITAL)** is the accrediting agency in Victoria.

The accrediting agency may then recommend to the relevant state or territory health authority that a general practitioner, other community-based medical practitioner, or nurse practitioner be granted authority to prescribe medicines for hepatitis B. State and territory health authorities grant authority to prescribe on an individual basis.

Accredited prescribers are required to undertake continuing professional development (CPD) in order to maintain accreditation (see [section 4](#)). The accreditation agency is responsible for monitoring CPD, renewing accreditation, and providing ongoing support to prescribers.

Note for Victorian practitioners: Throughout this document, ASHM is referred to as the default accreditation agency. In Victoria, VHHITAL fulfils the role played by ASHM in all other states and territories. You can contact VHHITAL at vhital@nwmphn.org.au or by phoning 03 9347 1188 between 9am and 5pm AEDT, Monday to Friday.

Section 2. Becoming accredited

To apply for authority to prescribe hepatitis B s100 drugs as a general practitioner, other community-based medical practitioner, or nurse practitioner, you must either:

- Complete the **Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course (including post course assessment)** (refer to [section 2.1](#) for more detail), **OR**
- Apply to **receive recognition for prior experience** in the management of chronic hepatitis B (refer to [section 2.2](#) for more detail)

You must also commit to undertaking ongoing hepatitis B specific **continuing professional development (CPD)** (see [section 4](#)).

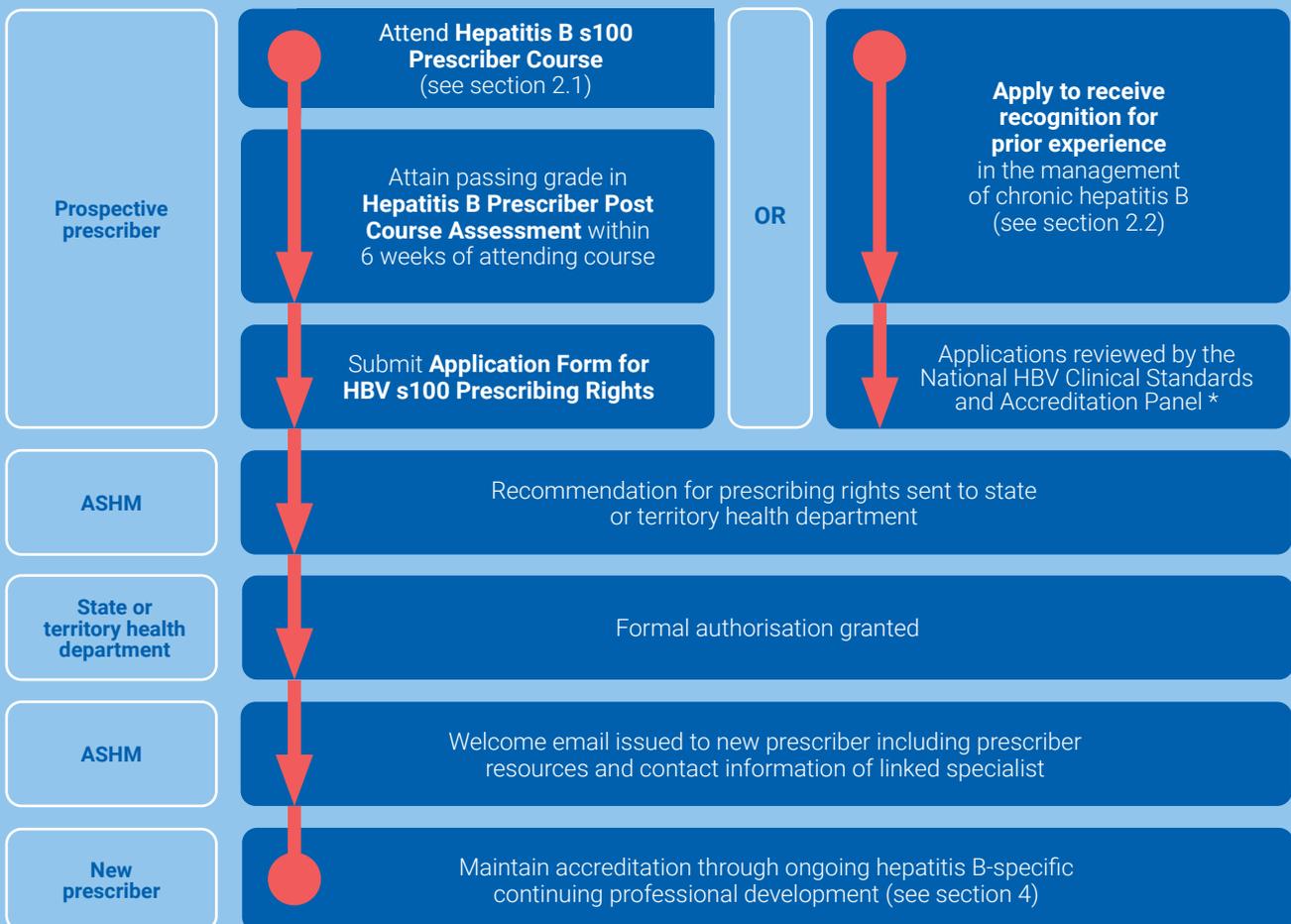
More information about the process for accreditation in each state and territory can be found on [ASHM's website](#)

2.1 Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course and post course assessment

ASHM's **Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course** provides the foundation for the prescriber accreditation process. It consists of self-directed online learning modules and video modules, and live facilitated training. Attendance is free to residents of the state or territory in which the course is run. Out-of-state practitioners may be able to attend through a course fee or scholarship.

Upcoming dates for Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Courses can be found at www.ashm.org.au/training. You can also e-mail HBVprescriber@ashm.org.au and request to be notified when a course is run in your area. Victorian-based healthcare providers may email VHHITAL at vhhital@nwmphn.org.au.

Figure 1: Overview of the accreditation process



* Depending on location, applications may instead be reviewed by an appropriate state or territory approving body. You may ask **ASHM staff** for more detail.

Becoming accredited

Post Course Assessment

To become an accredited prescriber following attendance of the Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course, you must pass the **Hepatitis B Prescriber Post Course Assessment**. This is an online assessment consisting of 1 multiple-choice quiz. The link to the assessment is distributed following attendance at the facilitated Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course and must be completed within 6 weeks.

You must attain a mark of at least 75% on the assessment to pass. If you do not attain a passing mark, you will be directed to further reading and invited to re-sit the assessment following a lock-out period of 24 hours. You may request to discuss your answers with a clinical advisor if needed.

2.1.1 Application Form for HBV s100 Prescribing Rights

Following successful completion of the post course assessment you will be asked to submit an Application Form for HBV s100 Prescribing Rights, which ASHM will provide. In this form, you will be asked to nominate a senior clinician at a hepatitis B treatment centre or liver clinic who will serve as your mentor (also known as the "linking specialist"). You may also ask ASHM to link you to a senior clinician if you do not have a current relationship with a hepatitis B specialist. You may reach out to your specialist at any time should you have questions related to hepatitis B management.

2.2 Applying to receive recognition for prior experience

As an alternative to attending ASHM's Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course, general practitioners, other community-based medical practitioners, and nurse practitioners may apply for authorisation rights as a hepatitis B s100 prescriber by demonstrating evidence of prior experience in the management of chronic hepatitis B. You can apply [here](#) or email HBVPrescriber@ashm.org.au for more information. Victorian-based healthcare providers may email VHHITAL at vhhital@nwmphn.org.au.

ASHM will notify you once your application is received and will forward the application and supporting documents onto the National HBV Clinical Standards and Accreditation Panel for review and assessment.¹

¹ Depending on location, applications may instead be reviewed by an appropriate state or territory approving body.

2.3 Formal authorisation

Once you have fulfilled the criteria outlined in [section 2.1](#) or [section 2.2](#), ASHM will submit a recommendation for prescriber authorisation to your state/territory health department. You will receive written confirmation from the health department when your authorisation is complete. You will then receive a welcome email from ASHM containing prescriber resources and your linking specialist's contact information.

2.4 Prescriber directory

Once accredited, you may elect to be added to ASHM's [online directory of accredited hepatitis B s100 prescribers](#) (viewable as a map). If you do not wish to be included you may opt out at any time. To support the accuracy of this directory, ASHM relies on you to keep your prescribing location/s up to date via the [Prescriber Portal](#) (see [section 5.1](#)).



Section 3. How to prescribe

As a hepatitis B s100 prescriber you are required to prescribe in accordance with **PBS restriction criteria** and keep evidence of compliance and patient eligibility on patient records.

To prescribe hepatitis B medicine under these arrangements you are required to include the **streamlined authority code** on the prescription.

3.1 Streamlined authority process

By including a streamlined authority code on the authority prescription, you are acknowledging that you are eligible to prescribe that medicine (i.e. that you are a currently accredited as a hepatitis B s100 prescriber), and that the use of the medicine complies with the PBS subsidy restrictions applying on the date of prescribing.

Streamlined authority codes can be found:

- On the **PBS Schedule**
- Via your prescribing software

Telephone-based PBS Authority approval will still be required prior to prescribing increased PBS quantities and/or increased repeats.

3.2 Community pharmacy dispensing

Hepatitis B s100 medicines can be dispensed in community pharmacies regardless of whether they were prescribed by a hospital-based specialist, or an accredited general practitioner, other community-based medical practitioner, or nurse practitioner.

However, some community pharmacies may not have a stocked supply of these drugs and instead will fill hepatitis B s100 scripts on a just-in-time basis.

You are therefore advised to recommend that your patients get scripts filled a week before they run out of pills, and/or confirm with the pharmacy that they have drugs in stock.

3.3 Questions or issues with prescribing

If you experience any problems in writing a prescription for hepatitis B medicines, or in having the medication dispensed, you can contact ASHM for support. Contact HBVprescriber@ashm.org.au or **02 8204 0783** between 9am and 5pm AEDT, Monday to Friday.

Or, if you are based in Victoria may contact VHHITAL at vhhital@nwmphn.org.au or by phoning 03 9347 1188 between 9am and 5pm AEDT, Monday to Friday.



For more information on prescribing using streamlined authority codes:

- Watch this [ASHM video tutorial](#)
- Refer to this [PBS fact sheet](#)

Maintaining your accreditation

Section 4. Maintaining your accreditation

To maintain your accreditation as a hepatitis B s100 prescriber, you must:

1. Accrue a total of 3 HBV continuing professional development (CPD) points during each calendar year.
Note: The HBV CPD requirement begins the calendar year after you are initially accredited.
2. Maintain a link with an HBV specialist who you can contact for advice and support.
3. Complete the Annual Prescriber Program Survey.

4.1 HBV CPD requirements

You can accrue CPD points through a variety of education and training activities delivered both by ASHM and by external CPD providers. Similar to guidelines for RACGP accredited activities, non-interactive or didactic learning generally attracts less HBV CPD points per session than interactive learning. Cultural awareness training, liver health, or advanced liver disease CPD can also contribute to HBV CPD.



You need to earn 3 HBV CPD points per year to maintain accreditation. Easy ways to access CPD:

- **Attend an ASHM training course** (face-to-face or via webinar)
- Complete online modules on the **ASHM learning management system**
- Get in touch with your linking specialist – discuss a case or arrange a placement
- Keep an eye out for quarterly Prescriber Bulletin emails for new CPD opportunities

CPD activities can occur face-to-face or via telephone/skype. It is recommended that you participate in a range of activities to obtain your CPD points.

4.2 Claiming HBV CPD points

For ASHM activities, including courses, conferences, and online modules, ASHM staff will record attendance/completion and allocate HBV CPD accordingly. Note it is the responsibility of each attendee to sign the attendance sheet at all face-to-face events.

For non-ASHM activities, you will need to submit the activity to ASHM via the **Prescriber Portal**. You must provide adequate details regarding the activity and the learning outcomes along with any relevant documentation (e.g. certificate of completion, correspondence with specialist, copy of journal article, etc). You should submit activities as you complete them throughout the calendar year.

External Training Providers: ASHM encourages external education providers to submit their HBV CPD activities for adjudication. We welcome additional opportunities for Hepatitis B s100 Prescribers to achieve their HBV CPD points. Please contact HBVprescriber@ashm.org.au to request a copy of the **Application for Adjudication of Educational Activity form** and attendance sheet. Victorian-based healthcare providers may email VHHITAL at vhhital@nwmphn.org.au.

4.3 HBV CPD activities

For a detailed breakdown of the points awarded to specific activities, please refer to the Approved HBV CPD Activities table below.

Table 1: Approved HBV CPD Activities

HBV CPD Activity	HBV CPD Points	Activity recorded via	
		ASHM staff	Prescriber Portal
Case conferencing/discussion or other mentoring activity with HBV specialist	1 point per hour		✓
Clinical placement at an HBV liver clinic/specialist treatment centre (Observing only)	1 point per half day placement 1 additional point for submission of short reflective report		✓
Clinical placement at an HBV liver clinic/specialist treatment centre (Active participation/consultation)	2 points per half day placement		✓
Attendance at ASHM HBV Prescriber Update Case Discussion session (Face-to-face or webinar)	1 point per session for attendance. 1 additional point available for prescribers who present their own case for discussion.	✓	
Completion of Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course Part 1: Introductory Hepatitis B Online Modules on the ASHM LMS	1 point for completion of the 3 introductory modules	✓	
Completion of Hepatitis B Advanced Online Modules	1 point for completion of each advanced module	✓	
Attendance OR presentation OR facilitation at Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course live sessions	Online delivery: 1 point per session attended Face-to-face delivery: 2 points per half day attendance; 3 points full day attendance	✓	
Viewing ASHM video modules on the ASHM LMS	1 point per video module. Video must be watched in full to be marked as complete.	✓	
Completion of ASHM self-directed learning activity	1 point per activity	✓	
Attendance at a recognised HBV-focused conference	1 point per day of conference, up to 3 points total per conference.	✓ if ASHM conference	✓ if other conference
Delivery of HBV-focused presentation at a conference	2 points per unique presentation		✓
Clinical audit regarding HBV management	2 points per audit		✓
Participation as an investigator in an HBV-focused clinical trial	2 points per trial per year		✓
Authorship of a published peer-reviewed HBV-focused journal article	3 points per article		✓
Completion of peer-reviewed journal HBV CPD exercise	1 point per exercise		✓
Online HBV CPD activities with Medscape, Clinical Care Options or other CPD providers	1 point per activity		✓
Attendance at HBV Clinical Update from other CPD provider, or group meetings organised by yourself/colleagues	Dependent on event		✓
Participation on steering committee related to hepatitis B education, resource, or guideline development and/or review.	1 point per committee, capped at 2 points per year	✓ if ASHM committee	✓ if external committee
ASHM Membership	1 point per year	✓	

Please note that HBV CPD points are not limited to the activities in Table 1. You are encouraged to submit other activities which may be eligible for HBV CPD points through the [Prescriber Portal](#). This may include self-directed learning. You must provide adequate details regarding the activity and the learning outcomes for that activity to be considered for HBV CPD points. You may be expected to provide evidence of an activity given by an external HBV CPD provider such as a certificate of completion. ASHM's clinical advisors will adjudicate the activity on behalf of the National Clinical Standards and Accreditation Panel and award CPD points accordingly.

Maintaining your accreditation



Requirements to maintain accreditation:

1. Earn 3 HBV CPD during the calendar year. . . ✓
2. Maintain a link with an HBV specialist. ✓
3. Complete the Annual Prescriber Program Survey ✓

4.4 Annual accreditation renewal process

At the end of each calendar year, ASHM ensures that all hepatitis B s100 prescribers have met the requirements to maintain accreditation.

1. **Earn 3 HBV CPD during the calendar year.** The aim of the HBV CPD requirement is to ensure that you maintain clinical competency in hepatitis B. It is not intended to be punitive. ASHM staff will provide you with support and opportunities to accrue HBV CPD points.
2. **Maintain a link with a HBV specialist.** It is essential that you have a senior clinician who you can contact for support, advice and patient referral. ASHM staff will facilitate new linkages where required.

3. **Completion of the Annual Prescriber Program Survey.** The Annual Prescriber Program Survey is an important component of the Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Program. Results are used to evaluate the effectiveness and support further development of the Prescriber Program. Completion is compulsory for all prescribers.

4.5 Taking leave from and re-joining the Prescriber Program

If you do not meet the accreditation renewal requirements at the end of a calendar year your prescriber status will be changed to "on leave". You may also request to be placed on leave at any time.

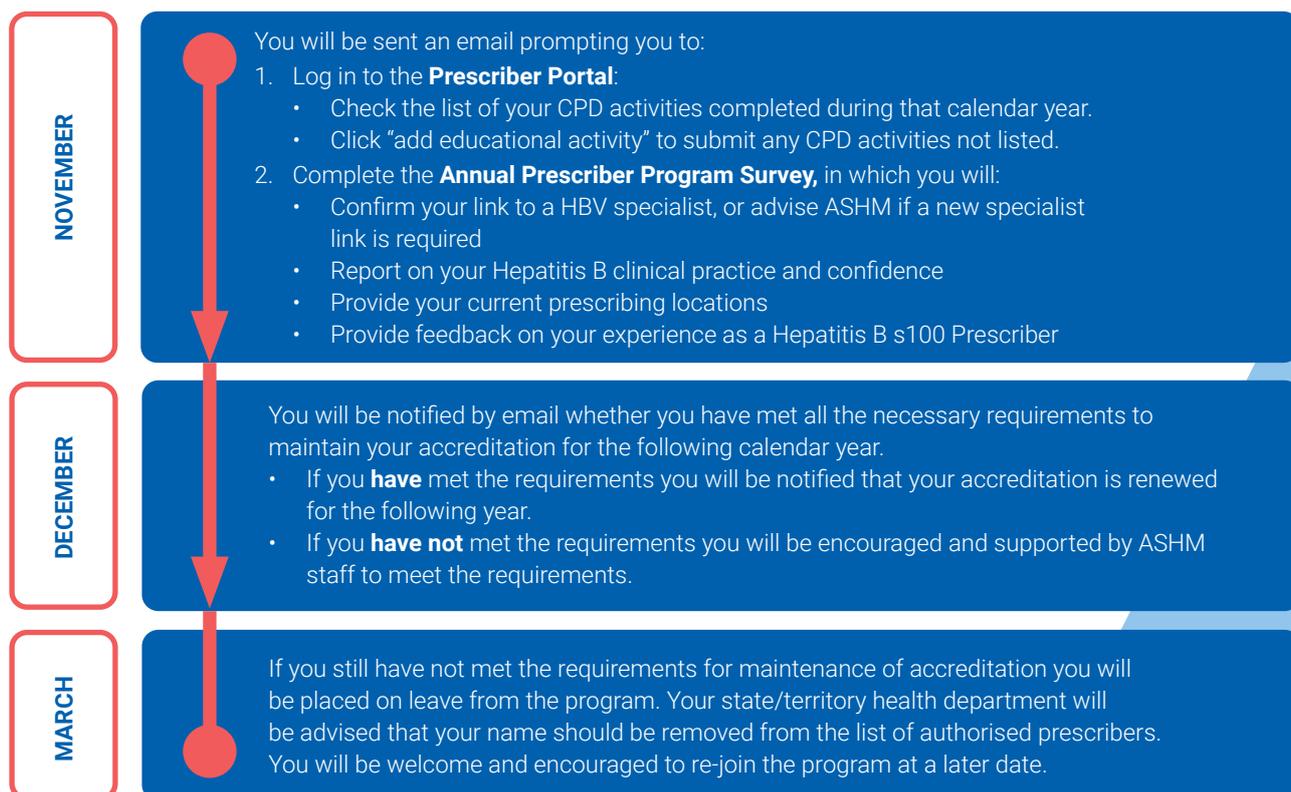
You will not be authorised to prescribe hepatitis B s100 drugs while your prescriber status is "on leave".

ASHM will contact you the following year at prescriber renewal time to ask whether you are interested in re-joining the Prescriber Program. If you are not interested at this time, you will no longer be contacted for follow up, but are welcome to get in contact if you wish to re-join.

Requirements for re-joining the program

- **If you have been on leave for one year or less**, you will need to earn 3 HBV CPD to re-join the program.
- **If you have been on leave for more than one year**, you may be required to complete the Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course. You can [contact ASHM](#) to discuss your individual case.

Table 2: Accreditation Renewal Timeline



5.1 Prescriber Portal

As an accredited prescriber you can use your MyASHM login to access the online **Prescriber Portal** at myashm.org.au.

Here you can:

- View and update your prescribing locations and languages spoken
- View your continuing professional development (CPD) points earned during the calendar year and track your progress towards the annual requirement of 3 HBV CPD points. See [section 4.1](#) for more information.
- Add other HBV-specific educational activities that you have completed. See [section 4.2](#) for more information.

5.2 Prescriber Bulletin

ASHM distributes via email a quarterly **Hepatitis B Prescriber Bulletin**, which includes:

- Continuing professional development opportunities
- Upcoming training courses
- Conference updates and scholarship opportunities
- Sector news, research and resource updates

ASHM encourages you to use the Prescriber Bulletin to stay up to date with the hepatitis B sector and to access continuing professional development throughout the year.

Section 5. Resources for prescribers

You can find a list of resources for hepatitis B s100 prescribers on ASHM's [website](#).

From this page you can access the following resources and more:

- **Application form**
- **Information on how to prescribe using streamlined authority codes**
- **B Positive – an online tool covering all you wanted to know about hepatitis B**
- **Prescriber Portal**



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