

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **Please ensure all prescribers in your Practice read this letter**

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Dear Practice

#### **Re: Repeating discontinued or historical medications in version 19**

Over the years there have been repeated requests from GP's, Pharmacists and the wider health sector, to phase out the prescribing of discontinued (historical) medications.

These medications are defined as a MIMS drug which is now out of date, a historical Pharmac medication prior to MIMS, a medication converted from another PMS during data migration, a Medtech16 medication or any user entered medication that is now inactive.

The prescribing of these medications create implications for patient safety and also resulted in a significant number of manual follow ups from pharmacists to the respective prescribers. It also meant that the Medtech32 software was not able to provide any drug and/or allergy interaction checking and that the subsidy information was not up-to-date.

In order to phase out these medications we implemented a "Warning Message" in version 19 that alerts users each time they prescribed such medications and prompted the prescriber to search and substitute with a current medication.

A number of practices have informed us that the steps required to be taken each time when repeating a discontinued medication is having an undesirable impact in terms of the time it takes to do this repeatedly for each patient in the practice.

In response to this feedback, we will be releasing an update which will help reduce the steps and time taken to search and substitute any discontinued medication by displaying possible alternatives (where applicable) that you could use. You will continue to be able to search for a suitable alternative, if no alternatives are automatically displayed or if you feel the alternatives displayed are not appropriate.

You will be able to add to the list of alternatives when you search and find a suitable current medication. Next time you repeat the same discontinued or historical medication for another patient, the warning message will display your chosen substitution for you to select.

We expect this update to be generally available within two weeks. A further communication will be sent to all practices closer to the release date.

In the meantime, today we have released an optional update (version 19.1 Build 2944) on our support website that will enable you (if you wish) to disable the current warning message that comes up when you repeat a discontinued medication in version 19.

We hope these changes will assist in overcoming any difficulties you may have experienced when repeating discontinued medications with version 19.

Warm regards

**Customer Services Team**