

Ms Simone Disborough
ASCEPT
PO Box 351
Hamilton Central QLD 4007

27 July 2026

Dear Ms Disborough,

Re: Updated Guiding Principles for the off-label use of medicines in Australian healthcare settings

The Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups (CATAG, www.catag.org.au) is pleased to announce the release of the updated [*Rethinking medicines decision-making: Guiding Principles for the off-label use of medicines*](#). These revised *Guiding Principles* provide contemporary, practical guidance to support clinicians across Australia to make informed decisions about off-label use of medicines.

The updated *Guiding Principles* have been expanded to eight principles, supporting clinicians to appropriately consider evidence-based off-label use of medicines. The scope of the document has also been expanded to include primary care and private hospital practice.

Key updates include:

- Better defining the place in therapy of off-label medicine use, acknowledging that in some instances the off-label use of a medicine represents standard of care.
- Recognising the role of experts and specialist referral to support appropriate off-label medicine use.
- Expansion of advice to support person-centred care when recommending a medicine off-label including considerations such as financial consenting.
- A streamlined approach to evidence evaluation, acknowledging that review of primary literature is not always possible, nor always necessary.

CATAG thanks the expert advisory group, chaired by Professor Richard Day, and CATAG member organisations for their valuable work and input in reviewing and updating these guiding principles.

The updated *Guiding Principles* and supporting materials are available via the CATAG website: <https://catag.org.au/resource/rethinking-medicines-decision-making-in-australian-hospitals/>.

CATAG sincerely thanks you for your ongoing support. We encourage you to share these resources with your networks and consider their application within your organisation.

For further information, please contact Lisa Pulver, CATAG National coordinator, at catagcoordinator@catag.org.au

Yours sincerely,



Anita Shutt
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