

AHPRA Statement on telehealth services prescribing GLP1s without screening for eating disorders - 30th July 2026

From a spokesperson for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency:

Ahpra and the National Boards expect all practitioners to undertake a comprehensive and holistic assessment of all patients to properly assess that any recommended or prescribed treatment is appropriate. This includes assessment of any increased potential for vulnerability before proceeding with treatments.

In relation to the prescribing of weight-loss medication, prescribers should consider whether patients have disordered eating, self-image or body image concerns. Inappropriate prescribing can cause serious harm.

Ahpra and the National Boards have published a joint statement on [professional obligations for prescribing and dispensing medicines](#). This includes information for prescribers using telehealth and managing conflicts of interests in practice settings where the prescribing and supply of a single type of medication occurs.

One of the case studies on our website relates specifically to [telehealth prescribing of weight-loss medication](#).

Last year we updated the [guidance for telehealth and virtual care](#), and we also provide information for the public about [what to expect](#). This includes circumstances when a practitioner determines that an in-person consultation is required.

Practitioners should recognise that telehealth is not appropriate for all consultations as the lack of in-person interaction can limit the ability to provide safe and effective care.

A consultation may require a more fulsome examination and/or observation of the patient than is possible via telehealth, or a particular treatment methodology may not be appropriate to deliver via telehealth.

Safety comes first, regardless of the clinical setting, consumer demand or other commercial considerations. The onus is on practitioners to demonstrate good practice and put their patient's interests ahead of any financial or commercial considerations.

Ahpra and the National Boards have taken regulatory action against practitioners in relation to prescribing or supplying prescriptions to patients with disordered eating. This has included restrictions on their registration and formal cautions.

As with all prescribing by registered health practitioners, regulation of GLP-1 receptor agonists is achieved by setting clear professional responsibilities for practitioners, providing reminders, guidance and advice to support compliance, responding to notifications when standards may not have not been met and sharing the lessons from regulatory outcomes to strengthen safe practice. Anyone with concerns over a practitioner's conduct should contact Ahpra on 1300 419 495 or submit an [online enquiry](#).