



**ashm**

## **Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Program**

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A Guide for General Practitioners,  
Other Community-based  
Medical Practitioners,  
and Nurse Practitioners



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

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

## 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 hepatitis B s100 therapy, and who wish to maintain and renew their accreditation.

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# Section 1.

## Background

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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, medical 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 Advanced Management and Prescribing 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.

The accrediting agency may then recommend to the relevant state or territory health authority that a general practitioner, other community-based medical practitioner, and nurse practitioner be granted authority to prescribe medicines for hepatitis B. State and territory health authorities grant authority to prescribe on an individual basis. An exception are clinicians that prescribe in hospital settings, however, if these clinicians do wish to prescribe in community settings, they must undertake the Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing course to become accredited. Hospital-based clinicians are still encouraged to join the program to maintain relevant up-to-date knowledge on hepatitis B management and prescribing.

Accredited prescribers are required to undertake continuing professional development (CPD) in order to maintain accreditation ([see section 4](#)). CPD specific to hepatitis B s100 prescribers is referred to as **"HBV Prescriber Points"**. The accreditation agency is responsible for monitoring accrual of HBV Prescriber Points, renewing accreditation, and proving ongoing support to prescribers.

## 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 Advanced Management and Prescribing 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 accruing 3 HBV Prescriber Points annually by 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**.

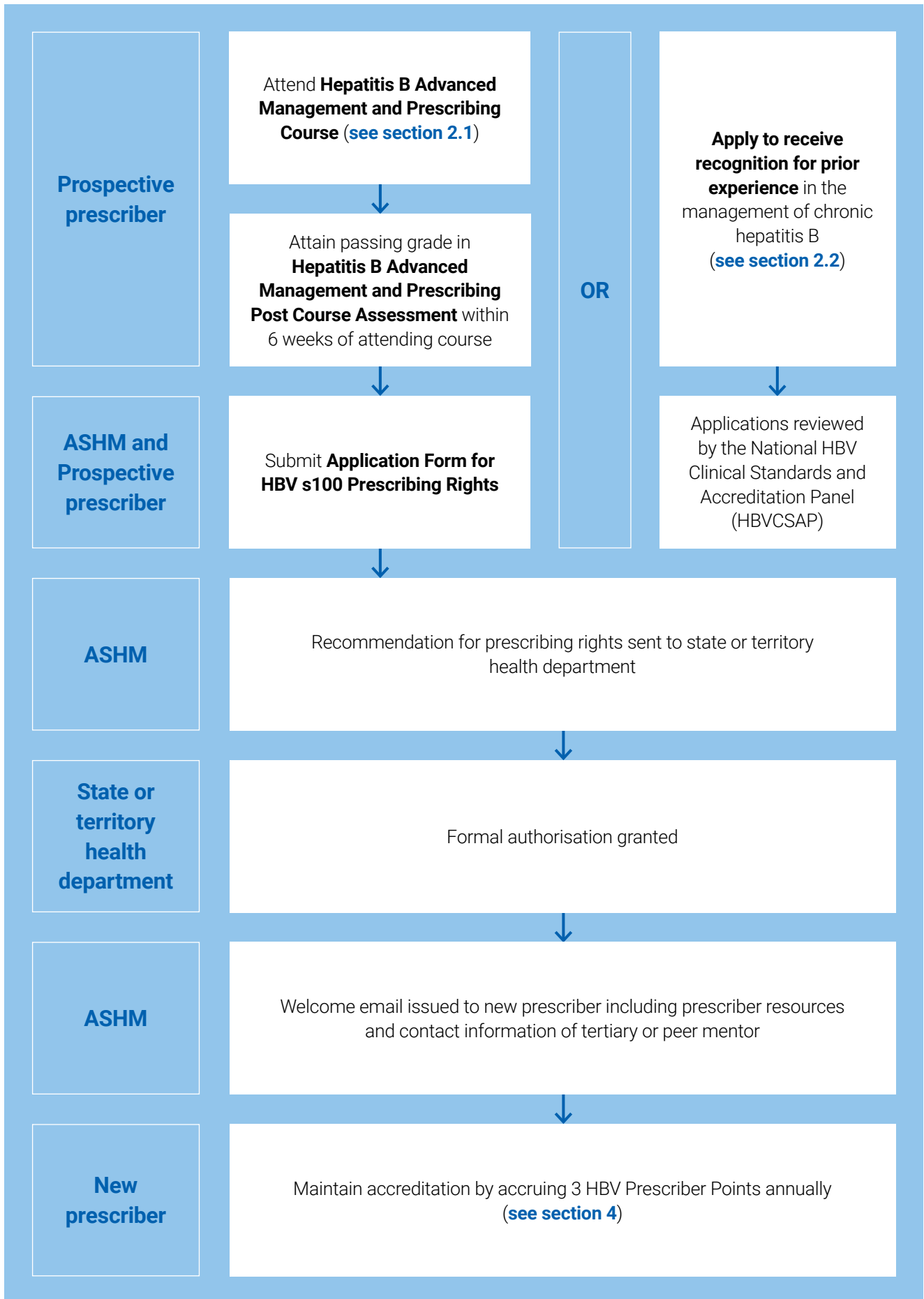
### 2.1 Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing Course and post course assessment

ASHM's **Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing 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 Advanced Management and Prescribing Courses can be found at [ashm.org.au/training/core-curriculum/hepatitis-b-advanced-management-and-prescribing](http://ashm.org.au/training/core-curriculum/hepatitis-b-advanced-management-and-prescribing). You can also register for the **Expression of Interest** to be notified when a course is run in your area.



**Figure 1: Overview of the accreditation process**



## Post Course Assessment

To become an accredited prescriber following attendance of the **Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing Course**, you must pass the Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing 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 Advanced Management and Prescribing 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 Hepatitis B s100 Prescribing Rights

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

#### Tertiary mentor

A tertiary mentor refers to a Hepatologist, Gastroenterologist or Infectious Disease Physician who you can contact for advice and support as needed.

#### Peer mentor

A peer mentor is an experienced Hepatitis B s100 prescriber who is approved by the National Clinical Standards and Accreditation Panel (HBVCSAP) as a peer mentor. A peer mentor is someone who you can contact for advice and support as needed.

## 2.2 Applying to receive recognition for prior experience

As an alternative to attending ASHM's Hepatitis B Advanced Management and Prescribing 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](mailto:HBVPrescriber@ashm.org.au) for more information.

Depending on your location, your application will be forwarded to a representative from the National Hepatitis B Clinical Standards and Accreditation Panel (HBVCSAP) or for review and assessment.

## 2.3 Formal authorisation

Once you have fulfilled the criteria outlined in [section 2.1](#) or [section 2.2 \(see above\)](#), 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 tertiary mentor or peer mentor's contact information.

## 2.4 Prescriber directory

Once accredited, you will be added to ASHM's [online directory of accredited hepatitis B s100 prescribers](#) (viewable as a map and downloadable list). If you work in a non-traditional setting or have other reasons for not wanting to appear on the map, you may opt out by emailing [HBVPrescriber@ashm.org.au](mailto:HBVPrescriber@ashm.org.au). 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.



**For more information on prescribing using streamlined authority codes:**

- **Watch this ASHM video tutorial**
- **Refer to this PBS fact sheet**

### 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, a general practitioner, other community-based medical practitioners, or nurse practitioners.

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. Is there a specific Medicare item number for prescribing hep B medication?

There are no Medicare item numbers specific to prescribing CHB medication. However, patients with CHB are eligible for chronic disease management plans, and there are **various Medicare item numbers associated with these arrangements.**

### 3.4 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.

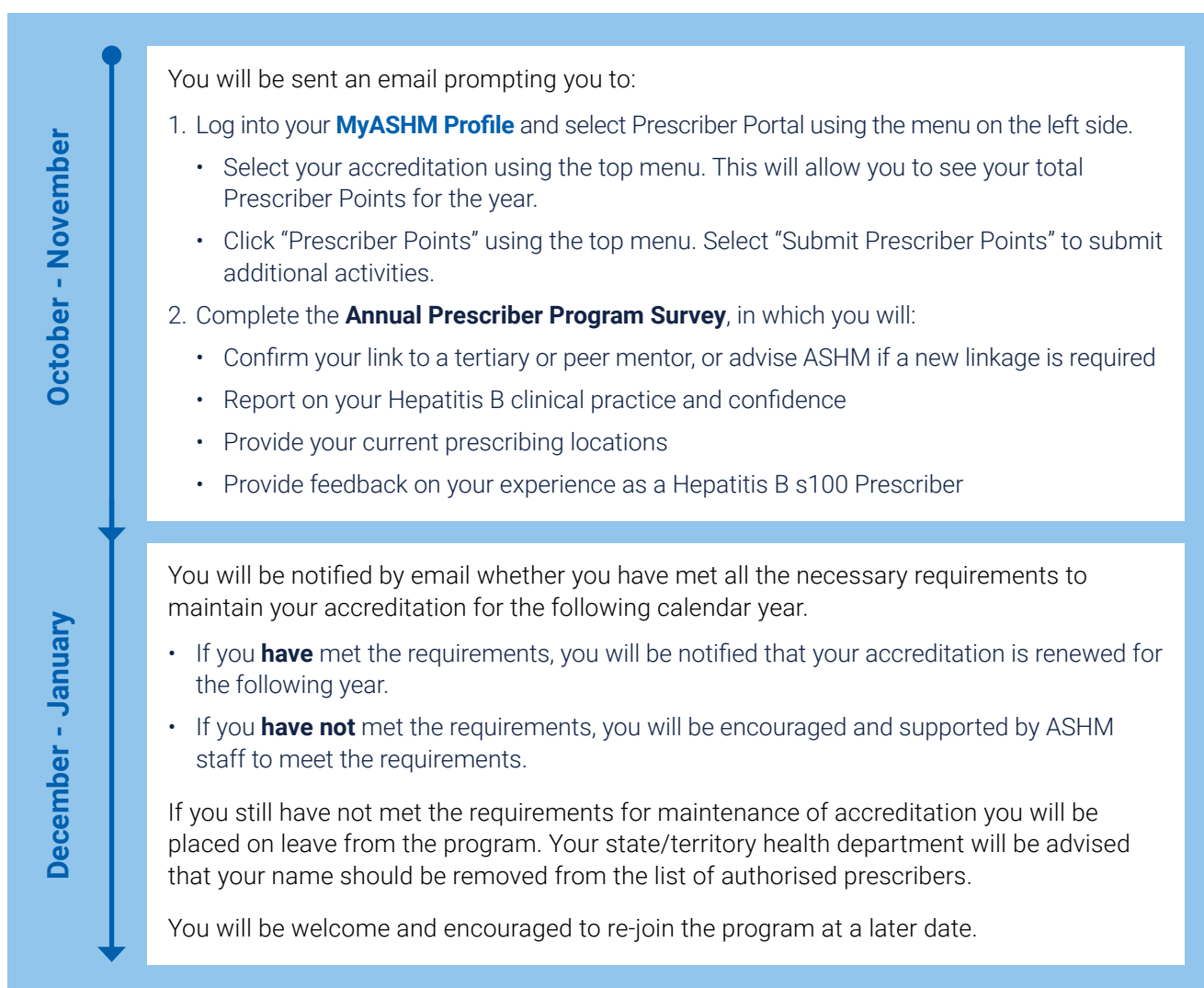
## Section 4.

# Maintaining your accreditation/ Annual Accreditation Renewal

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

1. Accrue a total of 3 HBV Prescriber Points during each calendar year. *Note: The HBV Prescriber Point requirement begins the calendar year **after** you are initially accredited.* The aim of the HBV Prescriber Point 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 Prescriber Points.
2. Maintain a link with a tertiary and /or peer mentor who you can contact for advice and support. It is essential that you have a senior clinician or experienced prescriber who you can contact for support, advice and patient referral. ASHM staff will facilitate new linkages where required.
3. Complete 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.

**Table 2: Accreditation Renewal Timeline**



## 4.1 Hepatitis B Prescriber Point Requirements

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

View the [latest HBV Prescriber Points Suggestions here](#). **Please note that HBV Prescriber Points are not limited to the activities found on the suggestions page.**



**You need to earn 3 HBV Prescriber Points per year to maintain accreditation.**

### **Easy ways to access Prescriber Points:**

- **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 tertiary or peer mentor– discuss a case or arrange a placement
- Keep an eye out for quarterly Prescriber Bulletin emails for new Prescriber Point opportunities

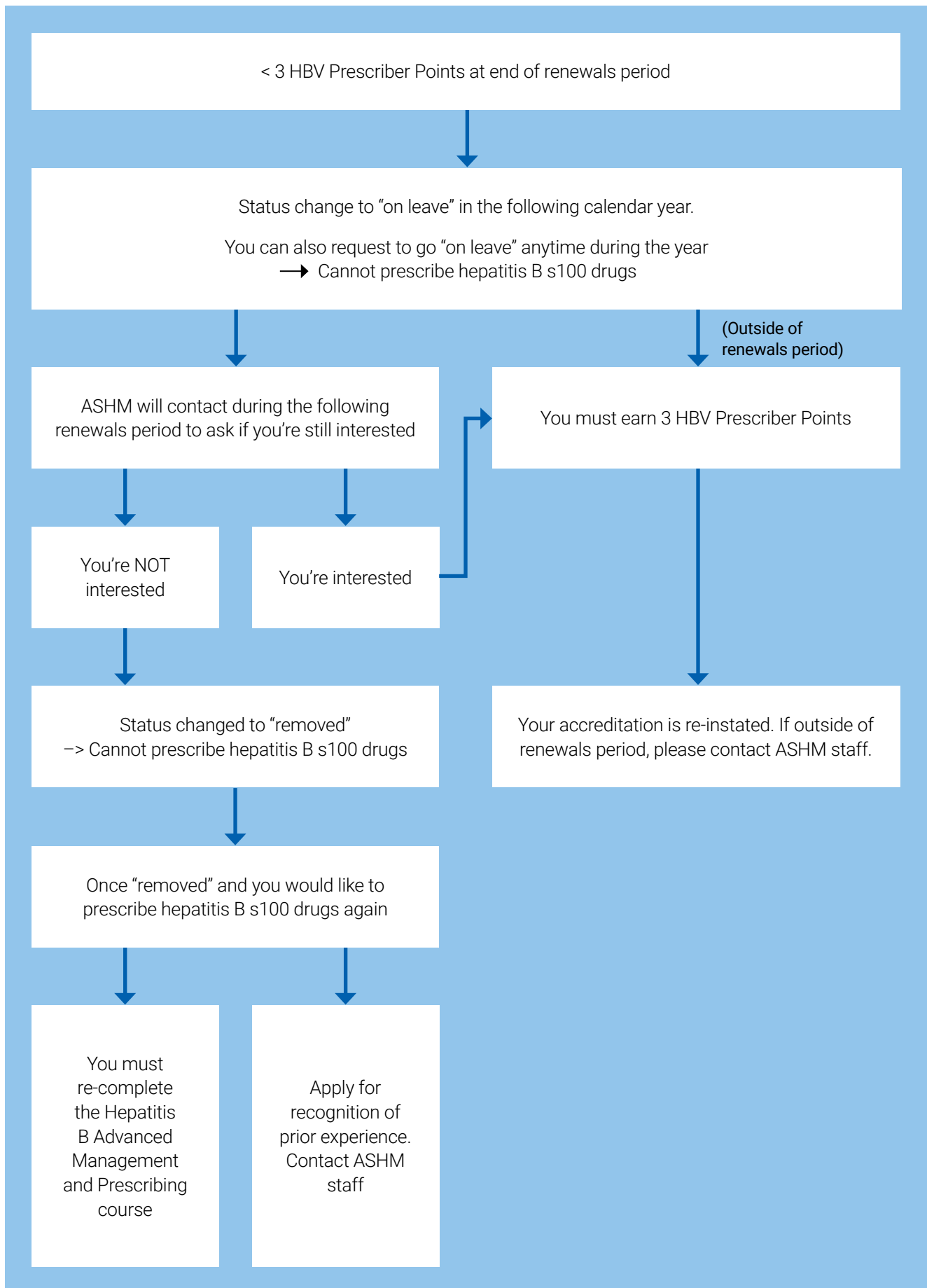
## 4.2 Claiming Hepatitis B Prescriber Points

**For ASHM activities**, including courses, conferences, and online modules, ASHM staff will record attendance/completion and allocate HBV Prescriber Points 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. You may be expected to provide evidence of the activity 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. ASHM's clinical advisors and/or ASHM staff will adjudicate activities on behalf of the National Clinical Standards and Accreditation Panel (HBVCSAP) and award Prescriber Points accordingly.

**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 Prescriber Points. Please contact [HBVprescriber@ashm.org.au](mailto:HBVprescriber@ashm.org.au) to request a copy of the Application for Adjudication of Educational Activity form and attendance sheet.

## 4.3 Taking leave from and re-joining the Prescriber Program



# 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:

- **B Positive** – an online guide covering all you wanted to know about hepatitis B
- **Prescriber Portal**
- **Decision making in Hepatitis B** – a hepatitis B clinical management tool
- **B Referred** – a suite of resources to support hepatitis B referrals and clinical decision making
- **REACH B form** – Online advice form reviewed by hepatitis B specialists
- If you have any questions, please visit the **FAQs page**.

### 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 Prescriber Points earned during the calendar year and track your progress towards the annual requirement of 3 HBV Prescriber Points. **See section 4.1 for more information.**
- Add other Hepatitis B-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:

- Prescriber Point 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.





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