



# Community Pharmacy Programs under the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement

## What is the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement?

The Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) is an agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. It supports consumer access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidised medicines through community pharmacies across Australia.

The 8CPA demonstrates a significant increase in the Government's investments in community pharmacy. This includes higher dispensing remuneration and increases in funding for Community Pharmacy Programs. This includes a funding envelope of \$26.5 billion, comprising:

- \$13.54 billion in pharmacy remuneration for dispensing PBS subsidised medicines
- \$1.30 billion for community pharmacy programs
- an additional \$3 billion to provide the Legislated Payment, new community pharmacy programs, indexation freeze and program evaluation.

The 8CPA will support all Australians to have access to timely, safe, affordable, and life-saving medicines in accordance with the National Medicines Policy (2022). This includes through the Government's sought amendments to the National Health Act 1953 to freeze indexation of PBS patient co-payments for general patients (\$31.60) for 2025. This also delivers up to a five-year freeze to the co-payment for PBS prescriptions for concession and pensioners (\$7.70) from 1 January 2025.

The 8CPA starts 1 July 2024 and will be in place until 30 June 2029.

## Community Pharmacy Programs

- Professional community pharmacy programs will continue under the 8CPA. These include Dose Administration Aids, Indigenous Dose Administration Aids, MedsCheck, Diabetes MedsCheck, Staged Supply, and the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance Programs.
- The 8CPA includes an increase in the base cap of Dose Administration Aids program from 60 to 90 services per week. This will help to encourage medication safety for patients, including older Australians. The Indigenous Dose Administration Aids program remains uncapped and free of charge to eligible patients.
- Funding for the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance has increased to better support access to medicines and pharmacy services in regional, rural, and remote areas.
- The Department will also carry out a rapid review of all community pharmacy programs in the first year (2025) of the term of the 8CPA. This will be followed by the implementation of an evaluation framework for each of the reviewed programs. This will ensure these programs meet the needs of all Australians and align with National Medicines Policy 2022.
- All other pharmacy programs operating during the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement that are not in the 8CPA, will continue until further decision from Government.