

Your questions answered:

60-day prescriptions



More medicines on the PBS can now be prescribed for 60 days at once – saving you time and money.



What is the PBS?

The PBS, or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, is a government program that makes some prescription medicines more affordable.



How does the PBS work?

Under the PBS, the government pays part of the cost of many prescription medicines, making them cheaper for you to use.



If you have a prescription for a medicine covered by the PBS, you will pay less for it when you get it filled because the government pays the rest.



The part you pay is called the Co-payment (or sometimes, the patient Co-payment).





What is changing?

Now, more medicines on the PBS can be prescribed for 60 days at once. Which means you can get double the medication in one go, saving you money.



Medicines that can be prescribed for 60 days have been made available in stages. There are now almost 300 medicines available for 60-day prescriptions on the PBS. You can download a list of the medicines by clicking [here](#).



What will the government do with the savings created by this change?

Every dollar saved by the government will be reinvested straight back into helping community pharmacies.



Will 60-day prescriptions change my Closing the Gap (CTG) Co-payments?

The Closing the Gap (CTG) PBS Co-payment Program applies to all PBS General Schedule medicines. If you are currently paying a reduced price or getting your PBS medicines for free under the CTG Program, this arrangement will remain in place, even if your doctor writes you a 60-day prescription.



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care



The Pharmaceutical
Benefits Scheme

How do 60-day prescriptions help me?



60-day prescriptions will benefit many people, especially those who live with a stable ongoing health condition. Medicines available for a 60-day prescription have expanded to include (but are not limited to) those for ongoing conditions such as:



- acne
- anxiety disorders
- asthma
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- constipation
- depression
- dry eyes
- gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD)
- glaucoma
- Parkinson's disease



So if your medicines are on the list, you could get two month's supply of your medicines on a single prescription instead of previously only getting one month's supply. Your doctor or health worker just needs to consider if this is right for you and provide you with a new 60-day prescription.

If you live in a rural or remote area that's far from your pharmacy, the change will also save you time and money on travel. And a 60-day prescription will mean there's less chance of you running out of your medicine at home or while travelling.

Have a yarn to your doctor or health worker to see if a 60-day prescription is right for you.

For more information including a full list of all medications eligible for 60-day prescriptions, visit health.gov.au/cheapermedicines

