



Savings with 60-day prescriptions

60-day prescriptions are making selected Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines cheaper for Australians for a range of stable ongoing health conditions.

Many people can now get twice the medication on a single prescription. From September 2024 this applies to almost 300 medicines on the PBS.

What will I pay for a 60-day prescription?

If you have a Medicare card and a concession card, you will receive 60 days' medication for the cost of 30 days, as you will only pay a single \$7.70 co-payment.

If you have a Medicare card but don't have a concession card:

- for medicines costing \$31.60 or more, you will receive 60 days' medication for the cost of 30 days, as you will only pay a single \$31.60 co-payment
- for medicines costing less than \$31.60, what you pay won't be same as for 30 days, but it will usually be less than the cost for 60 days.

Pharmacies can offer discounts for medicines that cost less than the \$31.60 PBS co-payment. The size of the discount is at the discretion of each pharmacy and can vary over time.

Discounts can be applied to medicines available for 30-day and 60-day prescriptions, making the cost variable between pharmacies. A patient with a Medicare card but no concession card will pay no more than the maximum General Patient Charge for their medicine as shown on the PBS schedule (www.pbs.gov.au).

Any applicable brand premiums are not included in the cost savings for 60-day prescriptions and will still need to be paid by the patient. Patients can speak to their pharmacist about generic brand options to save more money.

Pharmacies are able to compete on price for medicines priced below the general patient co-payment, and patients can shop around, including online, to find the best prices available.

Example – Medicine \$31.60 or more

A patient pays the \$31.60 general co-payment for their medication on a 30-day script. Now, with a 60-day prescription, their cost is the same as a 30-day supply of the medication.

Example – Medicine below \$31.60

A patient may have paid up to \$44.28 for two 30-day prescriptions – \$22.14 for each prescription. With a single 60-day prescription, the cost of the medicine is \$26.44. The patient saves \$17.84 every two months, or \$107.04 per year.