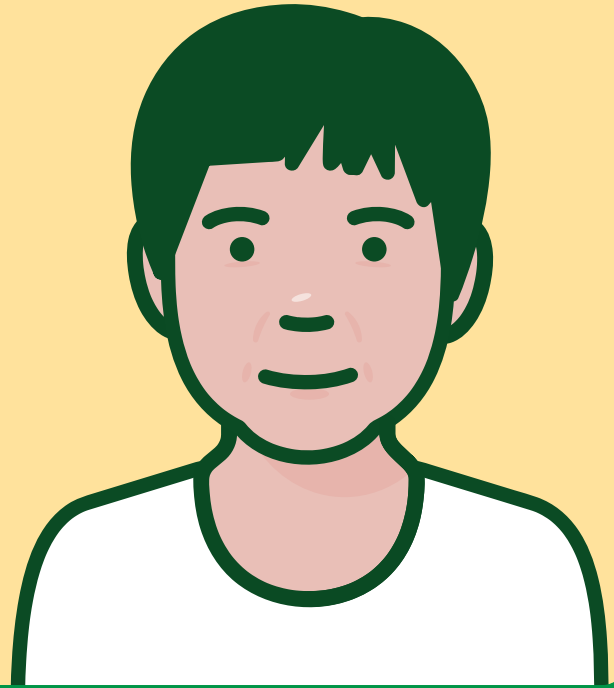


PBS co-payment freeze example

Living with type 2 diabetes



Almost 1.2 million Australians are living with type 2 diabetes. Many people with type 2 diabetes rely on the combination treatment linagliptin with metformin to control blood glucose levels, which is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Mia lives with type 2 diabetes and takes two tablets of linagliptin 2.5 mg with metformin hydrochloride 850 mg every day. This means she needs 12 prescriptions, costing her \$92.40 per year.

In September 2023, her medicine became available for 60-day prescriptions. After speaking to her GP to check if a 60-day prescription would be suitable for her, Mia found out she is eligible. She now only needs six prescriptions per year because she can get twice the medication on a single prescription. She also saves time because she doesn't need to visit the pharmacy as often.

Mia has a concession card, which means the maximum cost of each PBS-listed medicine she takes is \$7.70. This amount is called the patient co-payment and it usually increases each year due to indexation.

In 2024, she paid \$7.70 for each script, costing her \$46.20 per year. Since 1 January 2025, Mia still pays \$7.70 for each prescription, because the patient co-payment for concession cardholders has been frozen until 2030. This gives Mia the certainty of knowing that the cost of her medicine will stay the same for the next five years.

For more information visit:
health.gov.au/cheapermedicines



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