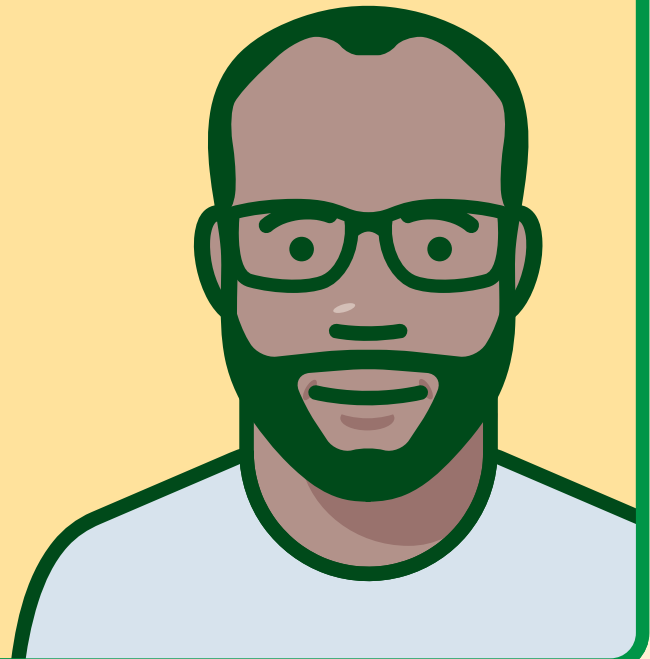


PBS co-payment freeze example

Living with elevated intraocular pressure



Intraocular pressure is the fluid pressure of the eye. This pressure increases if the fluid in the eye builds up and cannot drain naturally. Having elevated eye pressure is one of the main risk factors for developing glaucoma, which can lead to gradual loss of sight.

Peter lives with elevated intraocular pressure and he needs to take the combination treatment travoprost with timolol as eyedrops, once a day, to reduce the production of fluid and the pressure in his eyes. This medicine is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Peter's partner and their three children also take regular medications.

In 2024, Peter's eyedrops cost \$31.60 for each prescription. This is the maximum patient cost for a PBS-listed medicine, called the patient co-payment, which usually increases due to indexation.

Since 1 January 2025, Peter still pays \$31.60 for each prescription because the patient co-payment for PBS medicines has been frozen until the end of 2025. This ensures Peter can keep accessing his essential medicine without the usual cost increase due to indexation.

Peter and his family also track their medication expenses using the PBS Safety Net prescription record form, which their pharmacist updates each time they fill a prescription for a PBS-listed medicine.

If Peter and his family collectively spend more than \$1,694.00 on PBS medicines in a calendar year, they can apply for the PBS Safety Net card to access medicines at a reduced cost.



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

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