



New payments under the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement

What is the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement?

The [Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement](#) (8CPA) was signed between the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia on 3 June 2024. The agreement aligns with the aims of the [National Medicines Policy \(2022\)](#) and supports the provision of equitable, timely, safe and reliable access to medicines and medicines-related services to all Australians through community pharmacy. With an envelope of \$26.5 billion, the 8CPA represents a substantial increase in Government investment for community pharmacy.

About \$2.1 billion of the 8CPA envelope will provide a new legislated payment (*Clause 4.1* of the 8CPA): the Additional Community Supply Support (ACSS) payment. The ACSS payment will provide the necessary level of support to community pharmacies for the dispensing of PBS medicines and ensure continued access to these medicines for Australians while providing cheaper medicines to patients.

Key information on the ACSS payment

- An ACSS payment is payable for each supply of a Commonwealth subsidised (i.e. claimable) PBS or RPBS prescription of a section 85 medicine made by a community pharmacy from 1 April 2024.
- Prior to 1 July 2025, Services Australia will process ACSS payments on a quarterly basis via a manual bulk adjustment process.
 - To receive accurate payments during the manual processing window, pharmacists need to ensure all claims are certified (closed).
- From 1 July 2025 ACSS payments will be automated with payments for ACSS eligible supplies to be included in regular weekly payments for PBS online claims.
 - Payments for the periods ending 30 March 2025 and 30 June 2025 will continue to be made manually, after the PBS online system payments solution is in place. These will be made by 30 July 2025 and 30 October 2025 respectively.
- The ACSS payment has two components to give more support to all community pharmacies. One component gives specific support for 60-day dispensing prescriptions. s90 Approved Pharmacists are eligible for the following payments:
 1. a base-level fee per dispense for all general schedule medicines supplied to patients.
 2. an additional fee per dispense of an eligible increased Maximum Dispensed Quantity (MDQ) item when supplied in the full maximum dispensing quantity.
- The ACSS payment is legislated under section 99AAAA of the [National Health Act 1953 \(Act\)](#). The [Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal \(PBRT\)](#) is responsible for determining which medicine supplies are eligible for ACSS payments and the amounts of those payments, in accord with agreements under the 8CPA.
- More information on ACSS payments including current applicable fees is available at: <https://www.pbs.gov.au/info/healthpro/for-pharmacists>