

Cheaper Medicines

What the lower co-payment for PBS medicines means for you



The price for medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is capped at a maximum amount called the PBS patient co-payment. On 1 January 2026, the PBS patient co-payment for all Medicare card holders was lowered from \$31.60 to \$25, making many medicines cheaper.

About the PBS

The PBS is funded by the Australian Government to subsidise the cost of more than 900 listed prescription medicines for a wide range of health conditions.

If you have a Medicare card, you can get PBS prescription medicines.

Making medicines more affordable

The reduced co-payment means many Australians will notice significant savings on their prescriptions.

For Commonwealth concession cardholders, the PBS patient co-payment was capped at \$7.70 on 1 January 2025 and will remain frozen until 2030. This provides certainty about what medicines will cost in the coming years.

About the PBS patient co-payment

When you buy a PBS medicine, the price is capped at a maximum amount called the PBS patient co-payment. The patient co-payment is the maximum amount you are charged for most PBS medicines.

Some PBS medicines cost less than the patient co-payment amount. Pharmacies decide how much to charge for these, so prices can vary depending on where you fill your prescription.

If a medicine costs more than the patient co-payment, the Australian Government pays the difference. Four-out-of-five PBS-listed medicines cost more than the general patient co-payment.

If you choose a more expensive brand of medicine with a brand premium, you will pay a premium on top of your PBS co-payment amount.

More information

Talk to your pharmacist or prescriber to better understand your medication options and costs.

For more information on how the lower PBS patient co-payment can help you and your family, visit health.gov.au/cheapermedicines



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

PBS

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme