

**medicare**

# Changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

What this means for people with  
Commonwealth concession cards

Easy Read version



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health, Disability and Ageing**

## Support to read this fact sheet



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

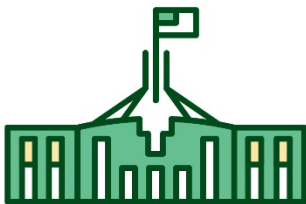
- read this fact sheet
- find more information.

## What is the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme?



The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme helps people pay for some medicines.

We call it the PBS.



The Australian Government manages the PBS.



The **PBS patient co-payment** is the most you will pay for many PBS medicines.

When medicine costs more than the PBS patient co-payment:



- you pay the PBS patient co-payment



- the Australian Government pays the rest of the cost.



The PBS helps pay for **more than 900** medicines.



You might need to pay more for some brands of medicine.

## How to check if your medicine is on the PBS



To find out if the PBS will help pay for your medicines, you can ask your:

- doctor
- pharmacist.



Your **prescription** can also tell you if the PBS will help pay for your medicine.



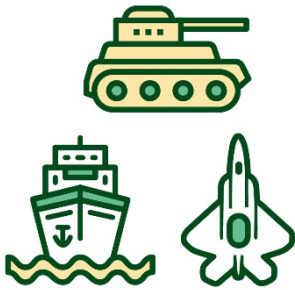
A prescription:

- is a document from your doctor
- tells a pharmacist which medicine to give you.



The label on your prescription might say PBS.

You can ask someone to help you check the label.



The label might say RPBS instead.

RPBS is a type of PBS for people who were in the:

- army
- navy
- air force.



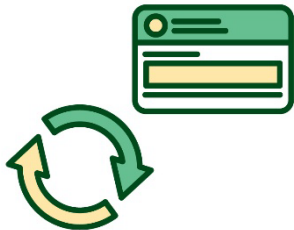
You can search for your medicine on the PBS website.

[www.pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing](http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing)

## What has changed for people with a concession card?



A **Commonwealth concession card** gives certain people a discount on some services.



On **1 January 2025**, the Australian Government changed the PBS patient co-payment for people with a Commonwealth concession card.



People with a Commonwealth concession card will keep paying **up to \$7.70** for PBS medicines.



This amount will stay the same until **2030**.

## Discounts on medicine

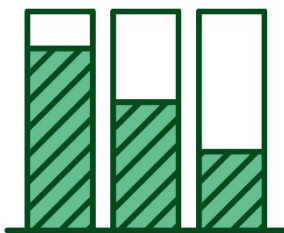


Some pharmacies can also choose to give you a small discount.

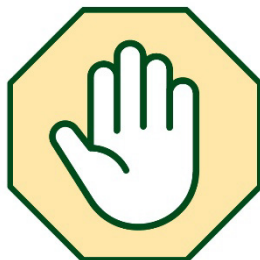


On **1 January 2025**, the discount was **80 cents**.

This discount will:



- keep getting smaller



- end in **2030**.

## Talk to your pharmacy about what your medicine costs



Your pharmacy can tell you how much different medicines cost.

You can ask them some questions, including:



- Is this medicine on the PBS?



- Are there cheaper brands of this medicine?

## 60-day prescriptions

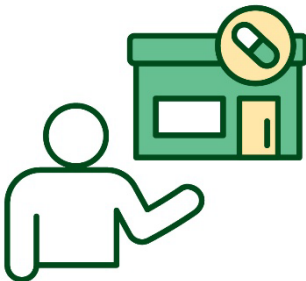


You can ask your doctor if you can get a **60-day** prescription.

A 60-day prescription means you:



- get enough medicine for **60 days**



- don't have to go to the pharmacy as many times.

## Find out more



You can talk to a pharmacist to find out more about the PBS.



You can find out more about the PBS on the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website.

[www.health.gov.au/cheapermedicines](http://www.health.gov.au/cheapermedicines)



There is also a list of PBS medicines you can check.

[www.pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing](http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing)



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