

medicare

Changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

What this means for the cost of your medicine

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.

You can get help to understand what your medicines will cost from your:



- pharmacist



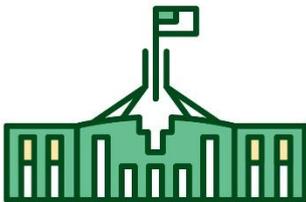
- doctor.

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



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:



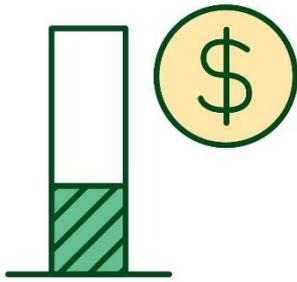
- you pay the PBS patient co-payment



- the Australian Government pays the rest of the cost.



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



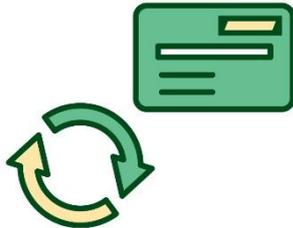
Some PBS medicines cost less than the PBS patient co-payment.



When this happens, pharmacies can decide how much these medicines cost.

What has changed?

If you have a Medicare card



The PBS patient co-payment has changed for people with a **Medicare** card.



Medicare is a service that helps pay for doctor visits and health care in Australia.



The PBS patient co-payment was **\$31.60**.



On **1 January 2026**, it went down to **\$25**.



This means people with a Medicare card will pay less for most PBS medicines.

If you have a Commonwealth concession card



The PBS patient co-payment will not change for people with a **Commonwealth concession card**.



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



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



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

Find out more



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

They can help you to:



- understand the cost of your medicine



- find out if your medicine is a PBS medicine



- find out if there is a cheaper brand of medicine



- understand your medicine.



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

www.health.gov.au/cheapermedicines



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

www.pbs.gov.au/browse/medicine-listing



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