



# FACT SHEET

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

## Primary Care – Fast Track Electronic Prescribing

The Australian Government will fast track the implementation of electronic prescribing (ePrescribing) to help protect people most at-risk in our community from exposure to COVID-19.

### Why is this important?

Even though many people will not contract COVID-19, and 80 per cent of those who do will have only a mild illness, there are members of the community, such as older people and people with a chronic condition, who are at greater risk of serious illness and may benefit from reducing their risk of exposure to the virus.

Under this measure, ePrescribing and dispensing implementation will be fast tracked for up to 80 per cent of general practices and community pharmacies over the next eight weeks.

While the Commonwealth regulatory requirements for ePrescribing are in place already, this investment will assist software providers to implement this capability to support general practice and community pharmacy.

### Who benefits?

People self-isolating due to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 and other members of the community, such as older people and people with a chronic condition, who are at greater risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19. It is important that they are protected as much as possible.

This measure will allow a doctor to prepare an electronic prescription that the patient will then be able to electronically share with their pharmacy, where the pharmacy is able to support the home delivery of medicines. This will allow people in self-isolation access to their medicines and will lessen the risk of infection being spread in general practice waiting rooms and at community pharmacies.

This measure will reduce administrative burden on health care professionals in managing vulnerable members of the community and support the telehealth measure.

### How much will this cost?

This measure will invest up to \$5 million in 2019-20.