



Budget 2023-24

This information is accurate as of 9 May 2023.

Reducing Patient Costs and Improving Services through Community Pharmacies

This measure will:

- increase the maximum dispensing quantities (MDQ) allowed for certain Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines used for many common and chronic diseases
- enable payments from the Australian Government to community pharmacies for administering vaccinations listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP), and
- require the use of electronic prescribing for all dangerous and high-cost medicines for all patient categories.

Services Australia will make changes to the PBS system, allowing prescribers to have the option to provide patients with prescriptions for increased quantities for up to 2 months supply. This measure will decrease yearly out of pocket costs for these medicines as only one patient co-payment will be payable for the increased amount supplied.

Services Australia will enhance the Australian Immunisation Register and other systems, to allow the Department of Health and Aged Care to start payments to community pharmacies when administering NIP listed vaccinations.

Services Australia will also make changes to the PBS online claims processing system. The agency will create a new patient category and electronic medication chart for people receiving palliative care in non-hospital settings.

This measure is led by the Department of Health and Aged Care. For further information please contact the Department of Health and Aged Care.

This measure is not subject to legislation passing.

Who this measure affects

This measure affects:

- people with chronic, stable medical conditions
- people eligible for a NIP vaccination and pharmacists providing the service
- users of high-cost medicines and palliative care patients in non-hospital services.

When this starts and finishes

This initiative will start on 1 September 2023 and is ongoing.