



# Budget 2025–26

This information is accurate as of 25 March 2025.

## Improving access to medicines and pharmacy programs

This measure will strengthen pharmaceutical services in Australia by:

- changing the wholesale mark-up (WMU), as part of a dedicated agreement between the Australian Government and the peak body for pharmaceutical wholesalers, the National Pharmaceutical Services Association
- continuing work to mandate the use of electronic prescribing for all dangerous and high-cost drugs.

### Changes to the WMU

This measure will introduce the following changes to the WMU:

- structural changes to the WMU tiers
- changes to WMU quantity calculations, as part of the Commonwealth price paid for the provision of pharmaceutical benefits by an approved provider.

The WMU is paid directly to community pharmacies that claim this payment, as part of the Commonwealth price when a medicine listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is dispensed. Pharmacists then pass the WMU amount on to their relevant wholesaler.

Services Australia is responsible for processing and administering the WMU payments, which form part of the broader Commonwealth price used to calculate community pharmacy remuneration for dispensing PBS medicines.

### Continuing the electronic prescribing functionality

This measure will continue work to mandate the use of electronic prescribing for all dangerous and high-cost drugs. This will apply to all prescriptions for these medicines in all settings, including medication charts in hospitals, aged care and any other setting approved for use. This measure builds on the 'Reducing patient costs and improving services through community pharmacies' measure introduced in the 2023–24 Budget to increase patient safety, reduce inappropriate access and provide more assurance and protection for pharmacists dispensing these medicines.

Services Australia will receive \$0.8 million in 2025–26 to continue system and operational support for this element.

The measure is led by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

This measure is subject to legislation passing.

### Who this measure affects

This affects healthcare providers, including medical practitioners and pharmacists. It also affects patients by increasing patient safety and reducing inappropriate access of dangerous and high-cost drugs.

## **When this starts and finishes**

Changes to the WMU started on 1 January 2025 and are ongoing.

Continuing work to mandate electronic prescribing for all dangerous and high-cost drugs will start on 1 July 2025 and end 30 June 2026.