The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

Safety Net

The PBS Safety Net helps lower the cost of prescribed medicines. If you or your family spend a set amount in a calendar year (1 January – 31 December) you can get cheaper or free medicines for the rest of that year.



Queensland Health

To reach the PBS Safety Net you need to:

- Have a Medicare card and/or Healthcare card
- Spend the set amount on PBS medications for you or your family.

Reaching the PBS Safety Net set amount

To know if you have reached the PBS Safety Net threshold amount:

- Always show your Medicare card and concession card (if you have one) at the pharmacy.
- Try to use the same pharmacy for all your prescriptions.
 Ask them to record your spending so they can tell you when you are close to the Safety Net amount.
- If you use different pharmacies, ask for a printout of what you have spent on PBS medications.
- Give this form to your pharmacist to keep a record of how much you have spent on PBS medications. <u>Safety Net prescription record form</u> and application for a Safety Net card form.

Applying for the PBS Safety Net card

When you spend the set amount, you can apply for the PBS Safety Net card. The card will allow you to get cheaper or free medicines. Talk to your pharmacist about how to apply for the card.





SCAN FORM





Prescription Medicines



What is a prescription ('script')?

A prescription is a note from your doctor that tells a pharmacy what medicines you need. It has the name of the medication, how much to take, and how often to take it. Take this note to the pharmacy to get your medication or store safely until needed.

Do not share prescription medicines even if you have the same sickness.



What is a 'repeat script'?

A repeat script allows you to get more of the same medicines without needing a new note from your doctor each time. This is for medicines you take for an ongoing condition. Your doctor will tell you how many times you can get medication before needing to see you again.



What is an eScript?

An eScript (electronic prescription) is a digital version of a paper prescription. Your doctor can send it to you by text message or email with a QR code or token for each medication.



How do I keep the repeat script?

Store the repeat script in a safe place. Follow your doctor's instructions for taking your medicines.

Some pharmacies can keep the repeat script for you.



What is a 60-day prescription?

From 2024, some Australians with ongoing health conditions can get a 60-day supply of selected medicines with a single prescription. For more information, visit Cheaper medicines translated resources.

60-day prescriptions will apply to around 300 PBS-listed medicines.



Pharmacist home visits

A pharmacist may visit your home if your doctor requests a medication review. They will call you to book an appointment and talk about your medications with you.

Let them know if you have any problems with your medications.