

Please Remember

- When you come into hospital, or if you are an outpatient, please bring your Medicare card and your Concession card if you have one.
- When you come into hospital, bring any medicines including complementary (from health food shops and supermarkets) and pharmacy medicines with you.
- Your hospital doctor can only prescribe medication for your hospital treatment.

For more information:

On the PBS and the Safety Net:

Free call 1800 020 613

TTY 1800 552 152 (Hearing impaired)

TIS 131 450 (Translating and Interpreting Service)

Internet www.hic.gov.au

For more information on the Pharmaceutical Reform in Western Australia:

Visit our website

www.health.wa.gov.au/pbsreform

Telephone Health Info: 1300 135 030



Department of Health
Government of Western Australia

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Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Reform



**Improving the way you receive
your medicines from hospitals.**

The Western Australian Department of Health is working together with the Commonwealth to improve the way medicines are provided to patients at public hospitals. A new reform is being tried at some public hospitals where the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is being brought into the hospital. This new reform means that it will be safer and easier for patients to get the medicines they need.

The PBS ensures that all Australian residents and eligible visitors have access to necessary medicines at an affordable price. Most medicines that doctors prescribe are included in the PBS. Many cost much more than the price you pay, some hundreds of dollars, but the government provides a subsidy so that you pay much less.

The Old System

Under the old system, most patients would be given up to five days of medication when discharged from public hospitals. Within this time they would need to visit their doctor for a prescription to obtain further supplies.

The New System

Under the new system, you can receive up to a month's supply of each medicine when you are discharged or when you attend a public hospital as an outpatient. This means that you will not need to visit your doctor soon after leaving hospital for a prescription. This system is being tried in only some public hospitals.

Benefits to You

- There should be less confusion and less chance of accidental over-use or under-use of medicines because hospitals will be providing the same medicines as community pharmacies.
- The new system is more convenient for you because you will not need to visit your doctor immediately after leaving hospital just to get a prescription.
- Hospitals will be implementing strategies to enable you to gain a better understanding of your medicines and your doctor will be notified of these medicines.

Charges

The amount you will be charged for your medicines in the hospital will be the same as in your community pharmacy.

General patients pay up to \$23.70* towards the cost of each PBS medicine.

Concession card holders (issued by Centrelink) pay \$3.80* towards the cost of each medicine.

The Safety Net

If you or your family need a lot of medicines in a calendar year, the Safety Net can help to protect you financially.

Your pharmacist can give you a form (called a Prescription Record Form) to record medicines. Once you or your family reach the Safety Net threshold, you can apply for a Safety Net card at a

community pharmacy and your PBS medicines will be cheaper or free for the rest of the calendar year.

A family can include:

- A spouse or de facto spouse
- Children under 16 in your care
- Full time dependent students under 25.

Joint Safety Net: Public hospitals have a special arrangement that allows them to add PBS and non-PBS items to your Safety Net card up to an amount of \$23.70* if you are a general patient, or \$3.80* if you have a concession card. This scheme is only available if your medicines are dispensed in the hospital.

General patients: When you or your family have a record of spending \$726.80* on PBS medicines (and non-PBS medicines from a hospital pharmacy) in a calendar year, you are entitled to further PBS medicines at \$3.80* for the remainder of the calendar year.

Concession card holders: When you or your family have a record of spending \$197.60* on PBS medicines (and non-PBS medicines from a hospital pharmacy) in a calendar year, you are entitled to further PBS medicines free* for the remainder of the year.

* These prices are correct for 2004.